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Difficulties on Southwestern Frontier. Message from the President of the United States, communicating, in compliance with a resolution of the House, information in reference to the difficulties on the southwestern frontier.

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DIFFICULTIES ON SOUTHWESTERN FRONTIER.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING,

In compliance with a resolution of the House, information in reference to the difficulties on the southwestern frontier.

APRIL 2, 1860.—Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

To the House of Representatives :

I transmit herewith a report of the Secretary of War, with its accompaniments, communicating the information called for by the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 1st instant, concerning the difficulties on the southwestern frontier.

JAMES BUCHANAN.

WASHINGTON, *March 29, 1860.*

WAR DEPARTMENT, *March 29, 1860.*

SIR: In compliance with the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 1st instant, I have the honor to transmit herewith copies of the papers embraced in the accompanying list, including all the information in possession of this department concerning the difficulties on the southwestern frontier.

The resolution is returned.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN B. FLOYD,
Secretary of War.

The PRESIDENT.

List of papers, relating to difficulties on the southwestern frontier, accompanying the report of the Secretary of War of March 29, 1860.

1. General Twiggs to General Scott, January 13, 1859.
2. Same to same, same date.
3. General Scott to General Twiggs, January 13, 1859.
4. General Twiggs to General Scott, February 5, 1859.
 - a. Special orders, January 30.
 - b. General orders, February 5.
5. Governor Runnels to Mr. Floyd, March 15, 1859.
 - a. From Judge McSween, February 21.
 - b. From Captain Ford, February 24.
 - c. From Captain Bourland, March 4.
6. Messrs. Hemphill & Ward to Mr. Floyd, March 21, 1859.
 - a. Memorial of citizens of Brownsville.
7. General Twiggs to General Scott, March 28, 1859.
8. Same to same, June 11, 1859.
9. Same to same, July 6, 1859.
10. Same to same, September 16, 1859.
11. Same to same, September 22, 1859.
 - a. From Mr. Stone, September 12.
 - b. Newspaper slip.
12. The people of Brownsville to the President, October 2, 1859.
 - a. Memorial to Governor Runnels.
13. Mr. Hemphill to same, October 6, 1859.
 - a. From Mr. Haynes, October 1.
 - b, c, and d. Newspaper slips.
14. General Twiggs to the Adjutant General, October 7, 1859.
 - a. From Mr. Latham, September 28.
15. Mr. Hemphill to the President, October 8, 1859.
16. Same to same, October 17, 1859.
17. Mr. Powers to same, October 18, 1859.
18. Lieutenant Langdon to same, October 18, 1859.
19. Mr. Harris to Mr. Floyd, October 24, 1859.
20. The Adjutant General to General Twiggs, October 25, 1859.
21. Mr. Harris and others to the President, October 25, 1859.
22. Mr. Slidell to same, October 25, 1859.
23. Mr. Drinkard to Mr. Hemphill, October 29, 1859.
24. Mr. Bull to the President, October 29, 1859.
 - a. From Mr. Kinney, October 12.
 - b. Newspaper slip.
25. General Twiggs to the Adjutant General, November 1, 1859.
 - a. Special orders, November 1.
26. Mr. Hale to Mr. Floyd, November 7, 1859.
27. Same to same, November 9, 1859.
 - a to g. Newspaper slips.
28. The Adjutant General to the commanding officer at Baton Rouge, November 9, 1859.
29. Special orders, Texas, November 12.
30. Special orders, Texas, November —.

31. General Twiggs to Mr. Floyd, November 12, 1859.
32. Same to the Adjutant General, November 14, 1859.
 - a. Newspaper slip.
33. Same to Mr. Floyd, November 17, 1859.
34. Same to same, November 18, 1859.
35. Same to same, same date.
36. Mr. Floyd to Mr. Hatch, November 18, 1859.
37. The Adjutant General to Major Clark, November 18, 1859.
38. Circular from the Adjutant General's office, November 19, 1859.
39. The Adjutant General to Colonel Sumner, November 19, 1859.
40. Same to Major Clark, November 19, 1859.
41. Same to Colonel Myers, November 19, 1859.
42. Mr. Hatch to Mr. Floyd, November 19, 1859.
43. Same to same, November 20, 1859.
44. Same to same, November 21, 1859.
45. The Adjutant General to Major Clark, November 21, 1859.
46. Same to Colonel Myers, November 21, 1859.
47. Same to Colonel Sumner, November 21, 1859.
48. Circular from same, November 21, 1859.
49. Mr. Hatch to Mr. Floyd, November 22, 1859.
 - a. From Mr. Reyburn, November 21.
 - b and c. Newspaper slips.
 - d. Proclamation of Cortinas.
50. General Twiggs to the Adjutant General, November 23, 1859.
51. Same to Mr. Floyd, November 28, 1859.
52. Same to the Adjutant General, November 28, 1859.
53. Mr. Latham and others to the President, November 30, 1859.
54. Captain Ricketts to the Adjutant General, December 1, 1859.
55. Major Vinton to General Twiggs, December 5, 1859.
 - a, b, and c. Newspaper slips.
56. General Twiggs to Mr. Floyd, December 10, 1859.
57. Lieutenant Washington to the Adjutant General, December 16, 1859.
58. Major Heintzelman to General Twiggs, December 16, 1859.
59. Special orders, Texas, December 16, 1859.
60. Major Heintzelman to the Adjutant General, December 18, 1859.
 - a. Field return of the Brownsville expedition.
 - b. Report of the grand jury of Cameron county.
61. Same to General Twiggs, December 19, 1859.
62. Same to same, December 27, 1859.
63. Same to the Adjutant General, December 27, 1859.
64. Special orders, Texas, December 28, 1859.
65. Colonel Seawell to the Adjutant General, January 5, 1860.
66. Same to same, January 7, 1860.
67. Mr. Hart to the President, January 21, 1860.
 - a. From Mr. Macmanus, January 18.
 - b. From Mr. Potts, January 19.
68. Mr. Hart to Mr. Phelps, January 21, 1860.
69. Same to same, same date.
70. Colonel Seawell to the Adjutant General, January 24, 1860.
 - a. From Major Heintzelman, January 15.

71. Major Heintzelman to Colonel Seawell, January 29, 1860.
72. Mr. Hart to Mr. Phelps, January 29, 1860.
73. Same to same, January 31, 1860.
74. Major Heintzelman to the Adjutant General, February 2, 1860.
75. Lieutenant Fink to Colonel Seawell, February 4, 1860.
76. Major Heintzelman to the Adjutant General, February 5, 1860.
77. Mr. Hart to Mr. Floyd, February 7, 1860.
78. Colonel Seawell to the Adjutant General, February 10, 1860.
 - a. From Major Heintzelman, February 5.
 - b. From Lieutenant Langdon, February 4.
 - c. From Captain Ford, February 4.
79. Major Heintzelman to Colonel Seawell, February 10, 1860.
80. Governor Houston to Mr. Floyd, February 15, 1860.
 - a. Messrs. Navarro & Taylor to Major Tobin, January 12.
 - b. Same to Major Heintzelman, January 12.
 - c. From Mr. Navarro, January 31.
 - d. Mr. Navarro to Major Heintzelman, February 2.
 - e. Major Heintzelman's reply, February 2.
 - f. Orders to Captain Ford, February 2.
 - g. From Major Tobin, February 6.
 - h. From Mr. Taylor, February 6.
 - i. From Mr. Navarro, February 15, enclosing statements of witnesses.
81. Governor Houston to Mr. Floyd, February 20, 1860.
82. The Adjutant General to the Commander of Fort Bliss, February 21, 1860.
83. Major Thomas to Colonel Seawell, February 22, 1860.
 - a. From Lieutenant Lowe, February 21.
84. The Adjutant General to Colonel Lee, February 24, 1860.
85. Mr. Floyd to Governor Houston, February 28, 1860.
86. The Adjutant General to Colonel Lee, March 2, 1860.
87. Same to same, March 3, 1860.
88. Colonel Lee to General Scott, March 6, 1860.
89. Major Heintzelman to the Adjutant General, March 7, 1860.
 - a. To Colonel Seawell, February 29.
90. Governor Houston to Mr. Floyd, March 8, 1860.
91. General orders, army headquarters, March 12, 1860.
92. Colonel Brown to the Adjutant General, March 13, 1860.
93. Governor Houston to Mr. Floyd, March 12, 1860.
 - a. List of persons killed and wounded by Indians.
 - b. Orders for defence, March 19.
94. Colonel Lee to the Adjutant General, March 12, 1860.
95. Mr. Drinkard to Governor Houston, March 14, 1860.
96. Colonel Brown to the Adjutant General, March 26, 1860.

1. *General Twiggs to General Scott.*

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA,
January 13, 1859.

SIR: Should the authority for which I have applied in a former communication be granted, to concentrate the infantry of my command and to keep the cavalry in the field, the plan I propose to adopt will be to break up the posts of Fort Brown, Ringgold barracks, and Fort McIntosh, and increase the garrison at Fort Duncan, on the Rio Grande; leaving small commands of infantry at the posts along the mail-route from San Antonio to El Paso, to keep the road open, the remainder of this arm could be advantageously concentrated at Camp Cooper, on the Comanche reservation, so as to give security and confidence to the settlers in the northern and eastern portions of Texas.

The largest portion of the cavalry might have a depot somewhere in the vicinity of Camp Radziminski, so as to be able to scout the whole of the country on the Canadian, Washita, and Red rivers, as far as 103° of west longitude, and to the south as far as the line of the Memphis overland mail-route to California.

Another mounted force, should a few additional companies of cavalry be placed under my command, could be most profitably employed in scouting the country along the El Paso mail-route, between Forts Lancaster and Davis, passing as far north along the Comanche war trail as the Staked Plains, and as far south as the Rio Grande, or, in case of hot pursuit, to follow hostile parties into Chihuahua.

With such an arrangement as the above, to go into operation early next spring, I am satisfied the Comanches and their allies could soon be brought to terms, and the government saved an enormous expense, which must continue to be incurred so long as the defensive system alone is pursued.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS,
*Brevet Major General, United States Army,
Commanding Department of Texas.*

Lieut. Col. L. THOMAS,
Asst. Adjt. Gen., Headquarters of the Army, New York.

2. *General Twiggs to General Scott.*

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA,
January 13, 1859.

SIR: Such is the state of affairs along the Rio Grande, in Mexico, with regard to the hostile Comanches, that I think some steps should be taken to protect the lives and property of the citizens on that frontier. As there is now no government in Mexico, I propose that the portion of her territory above mentioned be taken possession of by the United States. The Comanches, I am informed, have located themselves on a lake some seventy mile from Chihuahua, where they take

all the plundered property they get, such as horses, cattle, &c. The Mexicans are either unable or unwilling to restrain them, so that the evil is growing daily, and, if not put a stop to, will result in a suspension of the California overland mail.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS,

Bvt. Maj. Gen. U. S. A., Comd'g Department of Texas.

Lieut. Col. L. THOMAS,

Asst. Adjt. Gen., Headquarters of the Army, New York.

3. General Scott to General Twiggs.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,

New Orleans, La., January 13, 1859.

SIR: The general-in-chief directs me to acknowledge your two communications of this date.

The first of them he can only forward for executive consideration. Your opinions formed on the spot are entitled to respect, but it is not within the proper province of the general-in-chief to pronounce upon them. The plans indicated in your second communication are approved, and the general-in-chief authorizes you to carry them out, with such modifications as circumstances, in your judgment, may from time to time dictate. He hopes to be authorized to place at your disposal two squadrons of the second [first] cavalry for movements in the spring, and will endeavor to procure the transfer to your department of the posts in the vicinity of the Wichita country. He will make a similar recommendation with regard to the post at El Paso, learning from you that that post, which was attached to the department of New Mexico for purposes of supply, is now actually supplied *via* San Antonio.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEORGE W. LAY,

Lieutenant Colonel, A. D. C.

Major General D. E. TWIGGS,

Commanding Department of Texas,

Present in New Orleans, La.

4. General Twiggs to General Scott.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS.

San Antonio, February 5, 1859.

SIR: The enclosed orders will show the disposition of the troops in this department and the posts abandoned. I propose to keep the troops composing Major Van Dorn's command at Camp Radzinski until the grass will allow an expedition into the Comanche country; and another, if I have the means, to thoroughly scour the country up the Pecos river. Those two commands should commence operations

about the same time. It is known that a portion of the Indians that were attacked by Major Van Dorn in October last crossed the Rio Grande into Mexico. They are located on a lake eighty miles south-east from Chihuahua. The number of Comanche warriors around that lake is estimated from seven to eight hundred. It appears that there is a tacit understanding between them and the Mexicans not to molest each other except in extreme cases. They will no doubt commence their operations on the Texas frontier as soon as the grass will subsist their animals. Those Indians ought to be broken up, and be made to feel that the only security for them is in their good behavior.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS,
Brevet Major General United States Army,
Commanding Department.

Lieut. Col. L. THOMAS,
Assistant Adjutant General United States Army,
Headquarters of the Army, New York City, N. Y.

4 a.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, January 30, 1879.

SPECIAL ORDERS No. 3.

[Extract.]

1. Immediately after the adjournment of the general court-martial instituted at Fort Belknap, by paragraph 1 of Special Orders No. 118, of 1858, the commanding officer of the second cavalry will abandon Fort Belknap, Texas, and remove his headquarters to Old Camp Cooper, or some other contiguous point on the Comanche reservation, which he may select as eligible for a cavalry camp, taking with him all the public property and supplies. Possession of the buildings will be given up to the owners of the site of the post, to whom the public improvements revert. He will also select near his own a position for a large infantry camp.

By order of Brevet Major General Twiggs:

JOHN WITHERS,
Assistant Adjutant General.

4 b.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, February 5, 1859.

GENERAL ORDERS No. 1.

VIII. The following changes in the locations of officers and troops in this department will be made as soon as possible after the receipt of this order at the different posts affected:

Fort Brown will be abandoned, and company "L," first artillery, will proceed to take post at Fort Duncan, Texas.

Ringgold barracks will be abandoned, and company "F," first artillery, will proceed to take post at Camp Hudson, Texas.

Fort McIntosh will be abandoned, and company "D," first infantry, will proceed to Camp Hudson, Texas. The commander of it will prepare his company for field service in the spring.

Fort Mason will be abandoned, and Brevet Major Larkin Smith will proceed with his company "A," eighth infantry, to take post at Fort Clark, Texas. On the arrival of Major Smith's company at Fort Clark, Captain Charles C. Gilbert will proceed with his company "B," first infantry, to the camp near Camp Cooper, to be selected by the commanding officer of the second cavalry.

Fort McKavett will be abandoned, and companies "C" and "F," first infantry, will proceed to the camp near Camp Cooper, to be selected by the commanding officer of the second cavalry.

* * * * *

By order of Brevet Major General Twiggs:

JOHN WITHERS,
Assistant Adjutant General.

5. Governor Runnels to Mr. Floyd.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, *Austin, March 15, 1859.*

SIR: I have the honor to enclose reports of Captains Bourland and Ford, whose companies were called into the service of the State for the protection of her citizens against the hostile Indians infesting the frontier. A brief examination of these papers will, I think, convince you of the existence of a state of things which require that these men should be still kept in the field; indeed, that their presence there is the only guarantee of security to the sections of country where they are stationed.

Similar representations to the enclosed from the county court of Mason county are coming in every week from almost the whole line of frontier. The inaction of the general government places the State administration in a most embarrassing situation, and leaves it without any other resource than to adopt measures of security, though temporary in themselves. This position becomes still more embarrassing from the failure of Congress to meet the necessary expenses incurred. The orders to Ford and Bourland were communicated to you when they took the field; also the evidences on which I had assumed the authority. I flatter myself that Congress could not resist a claim demanding so much of its justice, if fully endorsed by the department. I therefore hope for your recommendation of the payment of these men on the earliest opportunity, as, if not, the State legislature must provide for them.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. R. RUNNELS.

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,
Secretary of War.

5 a.

MASON, *Mason county, Texas, February 21, 1859.*

SIR: The county court of this county has instructed me to present to your excellency our exposed and defenceless condition, and our daily and hourly danger in our lives and property from the Indians.

We have hitherto been protected, and felt quite secure by the regular troops at Fort Mason, but so soon as the post was ordered to be broken up we were visited by the Indians, and it has been almost a daily occurrence ever since.

And under this state of the country, the county court have felt constrained to call on your excellency to render us some protection by sending us troops, and have them so situated as to give us security from the savages.

We could give you many instances of depredations committed very recently by the Indians in this county and Llano, and have the facts substantiated by reliable men who witnessed them and suffered from them, but deem it sufficient barely to mention our exposed condition, and that we have been suffering from severe loss by the savages, to have our country protected by troops being sent to our relief as speedily as possible.

By order of county court.

J. McSWEEN,
Chief Justice of Mason County.

His excellency Governor RUNNELS.

5 b.

BRAZOS AGENCY, *February 24, 1859.*

GOVERNOR: I have the honor to report my operations since the 16th instant. I arrived on Clear Fork day before yesterday, and was preparing to pay off Lieutenant Marlin's command. Yesterday I received a communication from Captain Ross announcing the fact that a party of Indians had passed up the country with a large *caballado*, about 120 horses, a portion of which they had stolen from the Caddo Indians. After daylight I placed my command of first lieutenant and twenty-one men in motion immediately; reached here in the night, and took measures to pursue the depredators. Believing it possible the Indians could not be overtaken this side of their camps, and that my force was too small to make a successful incursion into their country, I enlisted Lieutenant Marlin and some of his men for the trip, with the promise of pay for the service rendered. Captain Ross has afforded every facility to aid me. The reserve Indians are organizing men to accompany the expedition. I shall move slowly and husband the strength of the horses, and use all the means in my power to insure success.

A citizen just below this has lost all his horses, and the shod tracks indicate the presence of other American horses in the *caballado*. An Indian came in this morning after having followed the trail fifteen miles; he brought an arrow which had been shot into a horse;

it was not Comanche make. I shall try to ascertain who the thieves are by following them to their hiding place.

The fitting out of Lieutenant Marlin's men adds a small additional expense to the State. I conceive the circumstances of a character to justify the expense. The Indians have recently committed many depredations on the Clear Fork and the Brazos. They fired into Major Cunningham's camp a few nights since; they have stolen quite all of Captain Preston's horses, and he is preparing to leave.

The main Comanche camps are on the headwaters of the Red and Arkansas rivers; they are subsisting their horses on cottonwood; and it is almost certain that they have a camp on this side of Red river, in the Cedar mountains, where they are keeping their stolen horses. I hope to find it.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

JOHN T. FORD,
Captain, commanding company Texas Rangers.

5 c.

GAINESVILLE, *March 4, 1859.*

DEAR SIR: I have not as yet received any communication from you, though I have expected one for many days, which has had a tendency to confuse me in my movements on the frontier.

In my communication of about the 18th day of February ultimo to your excellency, I then stated I had ten men on a scout, pursuing a band of Indians who had stolen some fifteen head of horses. The scout overtook the Indians, and succeeded in retaking ten head of the horses. The Indians being mounted on the best horses, and coming up with them just at dark, and our horses being much jaded from a close pursuit of several days, were unable to get the Indians. The scout pursued the Indians to the Wichita mountains. I am fully satisfied they were border Indians—Wichitas, Keechies, and Kickapoos. Since then there have been as many as three other companies of Indians seen on the frontier, all of whom came on foot for the purpose of stealing. One young man, by the name of Davis, was killed by the Indians on the 20th of February ultimo. Our scouts pursued them, and succeeded, as before, in retaking all the horses stolen, except the ones upon which the Indians were mounted. All these Indians make for the mountains.

On last evening I received a communication from Fort Arbuckle that the troops at that post had had two fights with the Indians, and had killed twelve. In a few minutes after I had received the news two gentlemen came in from Montague county, near the Wise county line, to see me and report that there were three other small bands of Indians seen immediately in the vicinity on Monday last, and that many of the citizens were moving off, and that the entire frontier would break up without immediate protection, and that great confusion existed. I also learned from the overland mail conductor that the In-

dian depredations in the vicinity of Belknap had produced great alarm, and that Captain Ford's company, together with the Indians upon the reserve, were in hot pursuit; all of which proves conclusively that it is a general move by the Indians at this time to mount themselves from our frontier, and, when occasion suits, to kill our citizens. The Indians, I am fully satisfied, are preparing for an early spring fight.

Now, governor, in view of the premises, and the many solicitations from the people upon the frontier for immediate protection, I have called out twenty-four (24) additional men to serve with the thirty-six now in the field, making in all sixty men, rank and file; my men in the field being reduced two in number—Mr. Jonathan Thompson, who was accidentally shot and afterwards died, and the other by the name of Pat Burns, who I discharged on account of his inability and extreme awkwardness with fire-arms, having shot the said Thompson—I shall only muster the additional number at this time, hoping to hear from you soon. All of which is respectfully submitted.

My health is not such as to admit of my remaining with the company all the while, but I shall give all the attention that I possibly can under the circumstances. I shall give my personal attention to obtaining such supplies as they may need.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES BOURLAND.

His excellency H. R. RUNNELS,
Governor of the State of Texas.

6. *Messrs. Hemphill and Ward to Mr. Floyd.*

WASHINGTON, *March 21, 1859.*

SIR: Enclosed we forward you a petition or remonstrance of some of the principal inhabitants of the Rio Grande frontier against the removal of the United States troops from Fort Brown, Ringgold barracks, and we earnestly commend the same to your favorable and prompt consideration. We have a personal knowledge of a number of the petitioners, and know several of them to be persons of the highest consideration, being now or having been the incumbents of high public offices. We also know the condition of the country on the Rio Grande frontier, and believe that the petition contains a true representation of the mischief and calamities likely to follow from the removal of the troops from Fort Brown, Ringgold Barracks, and Fort McIntosh, and we trust that the order for removal will be speedily revoked, and the troops retained at these frontier posts.

We have the honor to be, most respectfully, your very obedient servants,

JOHN HEMPHILL.
MATT. WARD.

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,
Secretary of War.

6 a.

To the Hon. John B. Floyd, Secretary of War, Washington City, D. C.:

SIR: The undersigned, citizens of Brownsville and of the Rio Grande frontier, have learned, with deep regret, that an order has been issued for the removal of the United States troops at Fort Brown, Texas, and the abandonment of said fort, and beg, respectfully, to represent our situation upon this remote frontier, with the hope that our claim to protection by our government will not be neglected.

Fort Brown, adjacent to the city of Brownsville, is distant from San Antonio, the headquarters of this military department, some two hundred miles, and separated from Mexico only by a narrow river, which is easily crossed at various points, and is the only garrison near the sea-coast, protecting a commerce of upwards of twenty millions of dollars per annum, which crosses the Rio Grande directly under the guns of this garrison.

The population of the city of Brownsville is small, and composed of many Mexicans, who would leave in case of any difficulty between the United States government and Mexico; besides which, we are near the Indian range, liable to be descended upon by the merciless savages without an adequate force to protect our families or our commerce.

The revolutionary condition of Mexico at this time—there being no regularly organized government in that republic—renders our condition more serious. Throughout the States of Tamaulipas and Nuevo Leon, directly opposite to us, the highways are literally thronged with bands of armed soldiers and highwaymen, belonging to either party there as the case may be, who pursue the system of plunder and robbery to an alarming extent; and we believe, if the post at Fort Brown and of Ringgold barracks were abandoned by the United States troops, the aforesaid bands of Mexican armed soldiers, highwaymen, and Indians, would cross into our Territory, plunder our commerce, murder our citizens, and make desert our frontier.

Many times our mail contractors for carrying the United States mail overland from Brownsville to Point Isabel, a distance of thirty miles, have been compelled to call upon the commanding officer at Fort Brown for an escort. Many times, too, our circuit judge has been compelled to call also for an escort to enable him to hold his court in the counties higher up on the Rio Grande, to guard against the bands of robbers and savages who frequently cross the river from Mexico for purposes of plunder and murder. How much more important, then, when the forces at Fort Brown are removed, will our unprotected commerce, which comprises many millions of dollars in specie coming out of Mexico per annum, become to regularly organized bands of armed Mexican soldiers, highwaymen, and Indians! To what a labyrinth of difficulties will it not lead the two governments of the United States and Mexico!

The moral force of the occupation of Fort Brown and Ringgold barracks by United States troops would effectually deter those armed bands from crossing from Mexico in any considerable numbers, know-

ing that prompt retribution would overtake them by our United States troops.

Our merchants and traders, from a sense of the security afforded by the presence of a military force at those two posts, have yearly increased their commerce with northern Mexico. And should that military force be withdrawn, it must close a trade worth millions of dollars to the United States, and jeopard unjustly the lives and property of her valuable citizens.

We therefore pray your honor to give such directions to the commanding officer of this military department as will afford that protection justly due to the citizens and the commercial interest at stake on this frontier; without which protection we feel assured that deeds of violence will be frequent, and followed close on the removal of the United States troops from those two posts.

Nothing has herein been said in regard to the unprotected situation in which the collection district of Brazos de Santiago would be left, should the United States troops be withdrawn from this frontier. This district should certainly be protected by our government, otherwise millions of dollars in debenture goods would be constantly exposed to the ravages of marauding expeditions from Mexico.

And last, not least, the facility with which filibustering expeditions could be fitted out to cross the Rio Grande in the absence of United States troops on this frontier, is another serious consideration, and an additional reason for continuing the garrisons at Fort Brown and Ringgold barracks. To all of which we call especial attention of our government.

BROWNSVILLE, *March 9, 1859.*

F. W. Latham, collector district	Henry Webb
of Brazos de Santiago.	Jos. L. Putegnât
F. Cummings	Joseph San Roman
Celestino Barredo	P. A. Galle
E. Goldman	Vos Derax
Heilman & Wozenbaum	Victor Dereix
J. Detnus & Bro.	Perès Auguste
Blas Martinez	Dumas Barreda
R. West	Joseph D. Fernandy
Magnin Frères	Greg'o Seceal
Frank F. Fenn	W. A. Waugh
J. R. Palmer	Henry Miller
Thomas Gilgan	Peter Clinton Sharky
A. & L. Gros	Conrad Bloom
F. Galvan	Y F. Garnier
T. Natus	Juan Maineso
Saul Kathrens	C. Henkel
J. C. Putnam	John Gray
Robert B. Kingsbury	Dionisio Palacio
F. M. Campbell	Simon Celaya
Charles D. Gory	W. Sanders
Joseph Francis	B. F. Kidder
Sant'o Yturria	M. J. Alexander

R. J. Lawlor	E. Cobb
M. J. Alexander	Bernardo Yturria
A. Werbiskie	Josiah Moorhead
P. Dodridge	M. Goldschmidt
H. L. Howlett	S. Cavazos
John Clark	John W. Fogg
Adolphus Landolt	G. Mahler
W. W. Nelson	Francisco Yturria
Sanforth Kidder, jr.	H. A. Emmons
George Dye	E. D. Smith
J. B. L. Primm	J. Castaing
John Young	J. Marks & Co.
W. Raymond	M. J. de la Vega
A. B. Bacon	Hugh B. Haralson
Adolphus Glaroreke	Wenceslao Junco
H. C. Scott	Peter Collins
M. Treviño & Bro.	James B. Good
B. S. Voorhis	S. Benand
Somers Kinney, Corpus Christi	N. Chuet
Geo. R. Gliddon, Corpus Christi	G. Catcel
Chas. Lovenskiold, Corpus Christi	Stephen Powers
John P. Border, San Patricio co.	F. J. Parker
John Graham, U. S. M. contractor	Louis Lawder
John Henanson, San Patricio co.	Albert Champion, mail contractor
A. S. Hatch, San Patricio co.	E. B. Mosley, Corpus Christi
John D. Mussett, Corpus Christi	W. O'Docharty, Corpus Christi
F. Britton, Corpus Christi	E. B. Schonborough, senator State
Chas. Worthington, Corpus Christi	legislature
Israel B. Bigelow	P. Nickels
Victor Hasslauer	Robert S. Hughes.

7. General Twiggs to General Scott.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, March 28, 1859.

SIR: I have heard incidentally (not officially) that the "department at Washington disapproved of my breaking up the posts in Texas." It was not until after consultation with the lieutenant general commanding the army, and his verbal approval, that I determined to do so—of which I, on the 13th of January, informed the Secretary of War through your office. The order was not issued until the 30th of January, and the movements were not hurried, in order to give time, if it was not approved of by the Secretary, for it to be countermanded. Having an extensive frontier to guard from an enemy who was making daily inroads upon the inhabitants, and having so few troops, I, after mature consideration, determined to abandon the posts on the Rio Grande and place the troops on the frontier. There is not, nor ever has been, any danger of the Mexicans crossing on our

side of the river to plunder or disturb the inhabitants, and the outcry on that river for troops is solely to have an expenditure of the public money. At every post that has been abandoned in Texas an outcry has been raised, and plenty of Indian signs seen; the citizens in the vicinity of those posts are very unwilling to lose the opportunity of handling a portion of the money necessarily expended by the government and troops.

In conclusion, I have respectfully to say that I have always, *as far as I knew them*, carried out the views of the Secretary and commanding general, and shall still do so to the best of my ability, and it is a source of mortification and regret to me to find I have failed in this instance.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS,

*Brevet Major General of the United States Army,
Commanding Department.*

Colonel S. COOPER,

Adj. Gen. of the United States Army, Washington, D. C.

8. *General Twiggs to General Scott.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,

San Antonio, June 11, 1859.

SIR: Until recently the State of Texas has been comparatively free from hostile Comanches for several months past, but it is reported that, on the 31st ultimo, a party of two hundred came over from Mexico and were seen near Comanche Spring on the El Paso road. So long as these Indians know that the Rio Grande is the limit beyond which the United States troops cannot pursue them, will the State be infested by these marauders from foreign territory.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS,

*Brevet Major General of the United States Army,
Commanding Department.*

Lieut. Col. L. THOMAS,

*Asst. Adj. Gen., Headquarters of the Army,
New York City, N. Y.*

9. *General Twiggs to General Scott.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,

San Antonio, July 6, 1859.

SIR: I do not believe there is at present, in this State, any considerable number of Comanche Indians; there may be some small parties for horse stealing, &c. I propose, for the next six weeks or two months, to recruit the cavalry horses, and for this purpose, as forage

is much higher at Camp Radziminski than at Camp Cooper, I have ordered two companies of cavalry to the latter place, leaving at Camp Radziminski two companies of cavalry and one of infantry. The buffalo come south in the fall, and the Indians follow them. I think of sending one or two scouts in the fall, say November, in the buffalo region, and next spring to send efficient scouts into the Indian country; if this is done, I think Texas will be rid of the Comanches for some time. Large parties of them are in Mexico, not far distant from the Rio Grande.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS,

*Brevet Major General United States Army,
Commanding Department.*

Lieut. Col. L. THOMAS,

Assistant Adj. Gen., Headq'rs of the Army, New York.

10. *General Twiggs to General Scott.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,

San Antonio, September 16, 1859.

SIR: Information has been received that a family of six persons has been killed on the Rio Grande, near Fort Duncan, by Indians. This will be, I fear, of frequent recurrence until something is done with the Indians on the other side of the Rio Grande. It is believed that one half of the Mexicans on the other side of the river, from fear of the Indians, give them countenance, as does the other half, to enable them to trade for the plunder from our side of the river.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS,

Brevet Maj. Gen. U. S. A., Commanding Department.

Lieut. Col. L. THOMAS,

Assist. Adj. Gen., Headquarters of the Army, New York.

11. *General Twiggs to General Scott.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,

San Antonio, September 22, 1859.

SIR: The enclosed letter is from this morning's paper. The writer is known to some of the officers, and they say he is a man whose statement may be relied on. This, in my opinion, is only the commencement of outrages by Indians from the Mexican side of the Rio Grande.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS,

Brevet Maj. Gen. U. S. A., Commanding Department.

Lieut. Col. L. THOMAS,

Assist. Adj. Gen., Headquarters of the Army, New York.

11 a.

EAGLE PASS, *September 12, 1859.*

MESSRS. EDITORS—GENTLEMEN: I am under the necessity of troubling you to record one of the most brutal murders in the annals of Texan history, where women and children, before being put to a horrid death, were ravished. On the 10th inst., about 6 o'clock p., m. Mr. Wilson, who lives on the Pendencia, came here and reported that, on the 8th instant, a party of Indians had attacked those ranchos on the Pendencia, and killed several persons.

Six of my neighbors and myself started about 8 o'clock the same evening for the purpose of relieving the distressed, and, if possible, to overtake the Indians; we arrived at the scene of action about 5 o'clock the next morning, where we met Mr. W. F. Smith and two other gentlemen who live on the Cariso, situated about eighteen miles south of the Pendencia, and who informed us that the Indians had passed near their place on the 9th; that they had rested for several hours within six miles of it, and also that they themselves had followed the trail for thirty-five miles in a southwesterly direction, and within about fifteen miles from the Rio Grande. The Pendencia is situated about thirty-five miles southeast of this place; there were four families living there—a Mr. Worman, wife, and infant about six months old; a Mrs. Hunter and two daughters, one six and the other nine years old; also Mr. Wilson, who was not there at the time. The above-named people lived in two houses immediately together, on the northwest side of the creek; Mr. Lafferty, four children and a woman, lived immediately opposite; and a Mexican, Cosme Romas, and wife, lived about three-quarters of a mile higher up the creek. The Indians attacked the two houses that are immediately together, where there was no one except the above enumerated women and children; Mr. Worman was at the time about 70 yards from the house, dragging brush for a fence that he was making. As soon as the Indians discovered him, and saw that he was unarmed, they sent two of the party to kill him, the main body taking charge of the women and children, and destroying everything in or about the houses. In the meantime, it seems, they had sent two of their party to the house opposite to reconnoitre, as it were. There they found no one but the women and children, Mr. Lafferty having left a few moments previous with his double barrelled-shot-gun, for the purpose of shooting a crane that he had seen below his house, and also to look at his mules that were grazing in the same direction. As soon as the women and children saw these two Indians approach, they ran out of the house towards Mr. Lafferty, who, hearing the noise and seeing the people run towards him, and two men on horseback after them, he started to meet them, not thinking the men in pursuit were Indians. He immediately pushed the woman and children in the ravine, where he defended them and himself with the two charges his gun contained, having no ammunition with him. The two Indians seeing that they could not accomplish their object alone, hallooed and motioned to their companions, who were amusing themselves by tormenting the

women and children, and destroying everything, and, to crown their enjoyment, would send now and then an arrow into the body of the dead man (Worman.) After satisfying themselves that the work of destruction was completed, they drove the women and children before them, and proceeded to the opposite houses, where they had another jollification in destroying what was there. They then went on towards the ravine where the two Indians were guarding Mr. Lafferty, and halted about 100 yards from it, and there committed the greatest crime of crimes. Oh! what a horrible sight must this have been! What must have been the anguish of the unfortunate mother who was compelled to witness the savages ravishing her daughters, one of six and the other of ten years!

Would I were able to describe the crime in a true light; I think it would incite the nation with just indignation and vengeance, and sweep the whole savage nation from the face of the earth. They ended their amusements there by beating out the brains of the mother and her two daughters. While some were engaged in the horrible work, others were trying all stratagems to get at Mr. L. in the ravine without exposing themselves, not having even courage to approach openly a single man with a gun. At last one of the Indians, more daring than the others, crawled to the mouth of the ravine, while others were at the side to draw off Mr. L's attention. While Mr. L. was pointing his gun at those at his flank, two of the arrows from the bow of the Indian at the mouth of the ravine took effect, one piercing his right breast, and the other his leg below the knee; but neither of the wounds is very dangerous. Mr. L. immediately shot at that Indian, and says that he fell, and, from signs that we have seen, it is very probable that he is mortally wounded. After this the Indians started, taking with them Mrs. Worman and her child. After travelling a short distance they discovered from a hill the house of Cosmo Ramos, and detached a party of nine to do the work of destruction there. But Mr. Ramos happened to be at home and armed with a rifle and six-shooter. The savages having had fun enough for one day, they did not care about having more, at the risk of at least one of their lives, but contented themselves by driving off four horses that were grazing in the vicinity.

From that place we returned, finding that further pursuit was useless, as our horses were not able to travel fast enough to overtake them before their crossing the Rio Grande, which we thought they would undoubtedly do, as their trail had already been followed within fifteen miles of the river by Mr. Smith and party.

. We followed their trail for about eight miles further, where we found that they halted at a creek called "El Tulio." There, from appearance, they had eaten their dinner; and, to give zest to their appetite, they murdered the infant. Oh! the horrible manner in which it was done! On the side of the creek they made a kind of hole by taking from the level a few stones, and there we found the little infant lying on its face with a large stone across its spine. It had been evidently laid there alive. Its position was that of pictures that I have seen of little angels ascending to heaven; its little arms reaching forward, its left leg stretched out, and the other forming the angle

of a square. Just imagine its mother being compelled to be a spectator, and to see her baby probably yet struggling for life when they started!

Can it be possible that our government will look silently on and see these depredations committed day after day, as they undoubtedly will be now that the whole frontier from Fort Clark to the mouth of the Rio Grande is entirely exposed, not only to the Indian, but to all kinds of lawless bands, who can deprive the bone and sinew of our country of their all, of what they have gained, toiled and labored for—what they have gained by the sweat of their brow—and cross the Rio Grande with impunity? While there were troops at Fort Duncan there never was an instance of women and children being massacred, at least not in this vicinity; and, as many people have been decoyed here by the apparently guarding arm of our government, it is my opinion that the government will at least be *human* enough to build up Fort Duncan.

Yours, respectfully,

WILLIAM STONE.

11 b.

[From the San Antonio Daily Herald of September 22.]

More Indian news.

We learn from the Eagle Pass mail-carrier that the Indians who committed the fiendish outrages narrated by our correspondent from Eagle Pass, after having been traced into Mexico, and fled to parts unknown as was supposed, returned the next day, the entire gang, to the Pendencia, the scene of their former murders, and were discovered by the Mexican Cosmo Ramos and Mr. Wilson, engaged in rioting, dancing, &c.

Ramos and Wilson both arrived, being seen, and hastening back to Eagle Pass gave the alarm, upon which the citizens turned out some forty strong, armed and equipped, elected William Stone captain, and soon started in pursuit; seven of the company were from Mexico. The merchants in Eagle Pass threw open their stores, and generally told the volunteers to help themselves to supplies. Captain Stone obtained a "written permit" from the Mexican comandante to go into Mexico in pursuit of the Indians if necessary.

12. *The people of Brownsville to the President.*

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, October 2, 1859.

SIR: The undersigned, on the part of our fellow-citizens of this place and vicinity, have the honor to enclose to you a copy of a letter addressed by us to Governor Runnels, as a means of disclosing to you the state

of affairs with us, and the probability of a protracted continuance of the danger.

Our information is, that this man Cortinas is endeavoring to strengthen himself with his associates by arousing a feeling of hostility generally against all Americans, and thus give his operations a semblance to the partisan guerilla warfare so common in Mexico itself. Certain it is that he has succeeded in reducing into his service several persons who have hitherto been regarded as good people. And certain it is also that his men are subsisted by indiscriminate forage upon the animals of any one falling in their way.

We have adopted this course as the best means of calling for that aid which our exposed and suffering condition demands.

We remain, with high regard, your fellow-citizens,

STEPHEN POWERS.

M. KENNEDY.

F. CUMMING.

F. W. LATHAM.

ROBERT B. KINGSBURY.

A. B. BACON.

J. SAN ROMAN.

VICTOR HASSLAUER, JR..

H. O'CONNOR.

J. R. PALMER.

HENRY WEBB.

His excellency JAMES BUCHANAN,
President of the United States.

12 a.

BROWNSVILLE, October 2, 1859.

SIR: The undersigned, a committee of safety of the citizens of this town, are charged by their fellow-citizens with the duty of informing you of the occurrences in this place and vicinity for the past four days, and to ask of you that aid, prompt and efficient, that the circumstances of our situation demand at your hands.

On Wednesday, the 28th of September ultimo, about three o'clock in the morning, and while our whole population was yet asleep, an armed body of Mexicans, somewhere about 100 strong, headed by one of their number, a man by the name of Nepomiceni Cortinas, a man of great influence, entered this city at different points, and immediately commenced to start from their slumber several innocent and inoffensive citizens, and in the most brutal and ruthless manner began to shoot them down, and in several instances to mutilate their persons in a most beastly manner.

While these aggressions were being perpetrated, a party of the same band proceeded to the jail of this county and liberated the prisoners therein confined, some of whom were confined for murder, and others for horse-stealing and other felonies. Shortly upon this they

beset the jailer, named Johnson, who, upon resisting, was shot by several persons and killed almost immediately.

Johnson, on being attacked, sought refuge in a neighboring house, kept by a man named Viviano Garcia, who, upon refusing to deliver up Johnson, was pierced by several balls and killed immediately. The party then entered Garcia's house, rifled the money drawers, dragged out Johnson and dispatched him. Johnson, receiving a mortal wound, fired upon and killed one of his assailants.

The immediate object of the gang seemed to be to execute summary vengeance on all towards whom either Cortinas or any of his gang had private grudge.

The party remained several hours in the place, charging through the streets in a most savage manner, calling for many persons whom they did not find, among this number being the sheriff of the county, who is under their ban, the gang shouting "*Death to the Americans; viva la republica Mexicana,*" and threatening to hoist the Mexican flag on the staff of our deserted garrison.

The citizens of the place are comparatively few in number who are capable of bearing arms; no one was prepared for the emergency, nor could any unity of action be obtained in time to avert the murders perpetrated; nor was it until several of the influential citizens of Matamoras came over and interposed strongly with Cortinas that he was induced to draw off his ruffians. They at length did leave, and withdrew to his ranche on this side of the Rio Grande, nine miles above this place, where they remain in force.

This band is composed entirely of Mexicans, some of whom belong on this side of the river and some on the Mexican side, many of them claiming to be American citizens; and such is the extraordinary influence of this man, from the most reliable information, he has collected upwards of two hundred, and his strength is increasing by recruits from the surrounding country, extending as far as the Nueces river.

This man Cortinas is the same man who recently shot the marshal of this city in the public street while in the discharge of his duty, and who from then till now has not returned into town.

There has also been for several years past an indictment for murder against him, on which the officers of the law have always found it impossible to arrest him, on account of the very desperate crowd with which he has been surrounded.

This man now maintains this numerous force at his ranche, where he threatens vengeance on all passing Americans, and in this respect has stopped the transit on the road leading from here up the river; on yesterday this man Cortinas had the temerity to stop the mail, cut open the bag, and take out and examine the letters, and notify the postmaster of his acts.

He threatens, upon various contingencies, to repeat his aggressions upon the town, and to lay it in ashes. At any rate, from his great influence, and with his associates and their very low character for the most part, together with the extraordinary force he is known to command, his position is at once formidable and dangerous to the town, and of constant harassment to its citizens, who have no suitable arms wherewith to defend themselves or dislodge the enemy.

Every able-bodied man has been under duty day and night since the first occurrence, and is nearly worn down with fatigue; and on yesterday, so menacing were the tidings from the camp of the marauders, that aid was asked from our neighboring citizens of Matamoros, the authorities of which immediately despatched an armed company, properly officered, under the immediate orders of General Carvajal, who holds a high military position under the constitutional government of Tamaulipas.

This force, as well as our own citizen force, has to be supported by the voluntary contributions of our citizens, where, in a limited community like ours, it is peculiarly burdensome.

It is not necessary to say that we have not at this place, nor between this and Laredo, a single United States soldier. So long as the general government kept a show of its authority, by the occupation of its frontier posts along the river, we had no complaint for want of public order or the necessary municipal protection. Now it is different; we have seen that a single Mexican outlaw can raise a crowd in our midst of several hundred desperate, lawless, and licentious beings, and offend with impunity the most sacred laws of security, peace, public order, and civilization itself.

The commercial statistics of our country show this to be the most important entreport, as well for the supply of goods for nearly one-half of Mexico, as also for being the most important outlet for the bullion of that country, and yet these interests have to be guarded by Mexican troops, who now occupy Fort Brown!

It is under these circumstances and for these reasons that we ask that protection which, by the laws and Constitution, it is in your power to extend.

We wish this protection to be prompt, ample, and efficient; we consider that a force of at least two hundred well-armed men will be sufficient, and necessary until such time as our courts can sit, indictments be found, and the criminals be demanded for judgment.

It is hoped that the federal authorities will, on being advised of this state of things, take prompt measures to retrace their hasty and inconsiderate steps in removing the garrison from this frontier, and that they will extend to us that ample protection which our situation demands. And to this end copies of this letter are simultaneously forwarded to General Twiggs, commanding the department of Texas, and also to the President.

We deem it important to state that five of our citizens were murdered on the morning of this foray, as follows: George Morris, William P. Neal, Robert J. Johnson, Viviano Garcia, and Clemente

Keyes; and we recommend that suitable rewards for the apprehension of the criminals, or as many of them as can be captured, be offered.

We remain, with high regard, your very obedient servants,

HENRY WEBB.

STEPHEN POWERS.

M KENNEDY.

F. CUMMING.

J. H. PALMER.

A. B. BACON.

ROBT. B. KINGSBURY.

F. W. LATHAM.

J. SAN ROMAN.

V. HASSLAUER, JR.

H. O'CONNER.

His excellency HARDIN R. RUNNELS,
Governor of the State of Texas.

13. *Mr. Hemphill to the President.*

AUSTIN, TEXAS, October 6, 1859.

SIR: Permit me briefly, but earnestly, to request your attention to the enclosed letter of the Hon. John L. Haynes, a member of the legislature of Texas, addressed to Messrs. Hamilton and myself, on the subject of protection to the frontier on the Lower Rio Grande. Mr. Senator Ward and myself had the honor, in March last, of presenting to the War Department a strong remonstrance by the citizens of Brownsville, and others, against the abandonment of Fort Brown, Ringold barracks, &c.; at that time the department was not informed of the grounds of the action of General Twiggs, and I left the city with the sanguine hope that a frontier so utterly exposed would not be left wholly without protection; but in this I was disappointed; the troops were removed, and on grounds which doubtless appeared of sufficient force. Their potency was, I presume, of temporary nature, for I cannot conceive of any grounds which would justify a permanent abandonment of a long line of frontier without protection to the hostilities of the savage and the rapacity of the freebooter.

The article from the newspapers enclosed within will show you that the savages have commenced the plunder and slaughter of the citizens on this frontier—ten or a dozen have fallen victims. From the letter of Mr. Haynes it appears that the settlement of the country on the Lower Rio Grande extending across the prairie to the Nueces has for a century been one of terrific vicissitude.

Temporary prosperity, followed by appalling and entire ruin, have in turn, and often, followed each other in this fine but unfortunate country.

I feel the most confident assurance that these changes are at an end; that your excellency will cause the abandoned posts to be reoccupied, and protect the country from the deplorable scenes of savage warfare which have been enacted and are perhaps now enacting, and from the

desolation and ruin which are threatened ; as the Secretary of War may not have returned, this letter is addressed to the President, and I trust that he may find it possible to give the subject some attention. Colonel Hamilton, the member elect, is absent, but unites in this application, and may perhaps address the department in a separate communication.

With sentiments of highest consideration, I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

JOHN HEMPHILL.

His excellency JAMES BUCHANAN,
President of the United States, Washington.

13 a.

AUSTIN, October 1, 1859.

GENTLEMEN: Enclosed you will find a copy of a letter to me from Mr. G. W. Pierce, and also another published in the San Antonio Herald, from Mr. J. C. Evins, both of Laredo, giving some account of the recent Indian depredations on the Rio Grande.

Some six months since all the troops on that frontier, from Eagle Pass to the mouth of the river, were ordered to other posts, leaving the country without a shadow of protection. At the time of this removal, in a letter to Governor Runnels, I called his attention to the subject, and requested him to communicate with the commanding general of this department to prevent, if possible, the entire abandonment of the frontier. I knew that the removal of the troops would be inevitably followed by the scenes now enacting. Governor Runnels complied with my request, but no change was effected, as General Twiggs required the troops to send to the northern frontier. Had the removal of the troops further north been followed by the protection of the people of that region, less objection might be brought against the plan ; but such has not been the result. The field of operations of the savage enemy has only been widened.

My object in addressing you is to request you to unite in an appeal to the War Department from the action of General Twiggs, and to urge the reoccupation of the abandoned posts on the Rio Grande. The government, at great expense, has built comfortable barracks at Brownsville, Rio Grande City, Laredo, and Eagle Pass, and no objection can be urged on that score. There the superannuated cankers of a calm world and a long peace can repose themselves, whilst the younger and more ambitious can seek the bubble reputation by seeking and scourging the enemy.

The country between the Nueces and the Rio Grande—its capabilities, its wealth, and its history—is but little known, even in Texas. I have collected some statistics of the commerce and resources of that section of the State, which prove that it eminently demands the fostering care of government, but will, at the risk of being tedious, preface them by a glance at its history, which for a century has been one of struggle, neglect, and suffering.

About the year 1750 the Spanish government planted some military posts or colonies on the Rio Grande, and encouraged the settlement of the country. Whatever may be said of the oppressions of that government, its policy in extending its frontiers and its treatment of the aborigines was wise and just. Several grants of land were made to colonists, (who were half soldiers, half citizens,) and reservations made for the Indians brought under the humane subjection of religion and civilization. Along the Rio Grande the lands were laid off with narrow fronts, and each colonist was entitled to his portion or head-right, varying in quantity according to the service rendered; whilst around each town, four leagues were held as commons for all, including new comers and poor people, not entitled to or unable to purchase land.

In the course of time these lands were settled, the Indians were reduced to peace, sometimes by the persuasions and piety of the early Catholic missionaries, and at others by force of arms, and the country began to flourish, when the first revolution against the mother country broke out in Mexico. This occupied the attention of the government, the frontier was neglected, and in 1812 the first great Indian invasion occurred. The whole coast (we call the great plains, stretching between the two rivers, *la costa*, or the coast) was depopulated, great numbers of stock were driven off, and the people took refuge in the towns on the Rio Grande. As the Indians retired, the herdsmen returned to gather the scattered remnants of their flocks and herds, the savages, however, giving them little peace.

In the year 1818 the second great invasion desolated the country. Five hundred warriors of the upper plains, accompanied by their families, poured upon the coast. The old town of Palofose (in Webb county) was burned and utterly destroyed, and has never since been re-peopled. The inhabitants who escaped massacre fled to Laredo, where the people from all the neighboring ranches had assembled. The Indians, finding that place too strong to attack, swept down the Rio Grande, destroying the large ranches of Dolores, San Ygnacio, San Bartola, and Clareno, besides many smaller ones. In the meantime the troops and citizens from Laredo, Guerrero, and Mier had concentrated, and near the ranch of El Clareno (in Zapata county) was waged the bloodiest Indian battle ever fought on the plains of Texas. The Mexicans numbered four hundred men, and the battle lasted the entire day, the Indians being intrenched in an arroyo, night ending the conflict, when the Mexicans withdrew, with a loss of forty killed and wounded. The next day, the Indians having withdrawn from the arroyo, the battle was renewed, and the victory was gained by the Mexicans, who continued the pursuit for several days, recovering many captives and recapturing much booty.

Predatory incursions continued for several years until Mexico conquered her independence, when peace was made with the Comanches and Lipans, which lasted from about 1824 until 1839. During this period the coast again flourished. In 1835, according to the assessment rolls of the towns on the Rio Grande, there were over three millions of head of stock on the coast. About this time the Texas revolution broke out, the result of which is history. After the defeat

of the Mexicans the people of the coast were suspected and disarmed by Mexico, and treated as enemies by Texas. Unarmed, unprotected by Mexico, war waged upon them by Texas, devastated by the Indians, they again fled from their ranches to the protection of the Rio Grande. Here for years they led a sort of amphibious life, swimming from one side of the river to the other as the Indians appeared on the one or the other bank. The rich coast was a wilderness; on our earlier maps it was laid down as a "*desert*," inhabited only by *large droves of wild horses and cattle*. You have doubtless seen these maps. It is no desert, but the "wild horses and cattle" were there, being the product of the immense droves and herds once obedient to and constituting the wealth of their owners.

This state of affairs continued until after the Mexican war, when the government of the United States planted military posts along the frontier, which began to check the incursions of the Indians. Shortly after, fortunately for the State and for our frontier, P. H. Bell was elected governor. Governor Bell knew something of the capacity and necessities of the frontier, and by his influence several companies of rangers, under Ford, Burleson, and others, were sent for our protection, which their gallantry soon in a great measure effected. Governor Bell also urged upon the legislature another wise and just measure in confirming a large portion of our land grants, which act was passed in 1852, and approved by him.

The people, seeing their rights acknowledged and their property protected by the State, commenced, about the year 1853, to settle their old ranches. The whole coast is now dotted with stock ranches, which, but six years since, was accounted a "*desert*." From imperfect returns in the comptroller's office, and data of my own, I find that the assessments for this year of the coast—Nueces, Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, Zapata, and Webb counties—will add up as follows:

Horses.....	10,000
Horned cattle.....	100,000
Sheep and goats.....	200,000

Such is the result of our short truce. Give us ten years of peace, and our stock will count, not by thousands, but by the million, for our "*desert*" is the best stock country in the world.

The commerce of the towns of Brownsville, Rio Grande City, and Roma, amounts to about four millions per annum. From a statement of Major Durst, collector of customs at Brazos St. Jago, for the years 1856 and 1857, I find that for those two years the value of foreign goods passing through that port amounted to \$1,058,424. This is about 20 per cent. of the merchandise sold in these marts to the Mexican trade. For the year 1837 there was imported from Mexico at the same port:

Lead, lbs.....	2,345,201
Wool, do.....	210,000
Hides and skins.....	64,038
Sheep and goats.....	785
Cattle.....	1,391
Horses, mules, and mares.....	15,393

During the same period about five millions of specie from the mines of Mexico flowed from the Rio Grande to New Orleans. These figures will give you an idea of our commerce.

Besides this, there is an immense trade from San Antonio to Laredo, Eagle Pass, and El Paso, being part of the commerce once traversing the plains from St. Louis to Sante Fé, Chihuahua, and the interior of Mexico, and which is now seeking this shorter and better route. I have no data to estimate this trade, but, judging from the long trains of wagons which I have seen leaving San Antonio, it must also count by the million.

Again, we have a great and increasing stock trade. Purchasers from Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, and Tennessee, come to our frontier to buy the cheap stock of the coast and of the neighboring republic. In the last twelve months at least thirty thousand horses and three hundred thousand head of sheep have been thus disposed of. The value of this trade is no inconsiderable item, as the figures will show :

30,000 horses, mules, and mares, at \$20.....	\$600,000
300,000 sheep and goats, at \$1 50.....	450,000
	<hr/>
	1,050,000
	<hr/>

All these great interests are involved in our frontier protection. I have thrown these estimates together that you may urge the protection of our material interests as well as that of the persons and lives of the frontiersmen. Not only are the frontiersmen vitally interested in this matter, but also the merchants and traders of New York, New Orleans, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, and other States ; and thus the subject assumes a national character.

I need say nothing of the necessity of having troops on the Rio Grande as a national boundary, requiring national defence, of the chronic state of revolution of the neighboring republic, and of the irritated state of feeling in that country on account of the proposed occupation of a part of their territory, for these are things that will occur to your own minds.

In conclusion, I would earnestly request your immediate attention to the condition and wants of the people of that section of the State ; for if the country is to be abandoned by the general government to the ravages of the Indians, it is my intention this winter to demand of the State that protection denied us by the United States, and to which we are so justly entitled.

I remain, with the highest regard, your obedient servant,

JOHN L. HAYNES.

Hon. JOHN HEMPHILL, *U. S. Senate.*

Hon. A. J. HAMILTON, *2d Cong. District.*

13 b.

Indian outrages on the Rio Grande.

The following extract from a letter dated Eagle Pass, September 12, gives accounts of some of the most shocking barbarities ever perpetrated by savages. We omit some of the details as too horrible for publication.

On the 10th instant Mr. Wilson, who lives on the Pendencia, came here and reported that, on the 8th instant, a party of Indians had attacked the ranchos on the Pendencia, and killed several persons.

The Pendencia is situated about thirty-five miles southeast of this place; there were four families living there—a Mr. Worman, wife, and infant about six months old; a Mrs. Hunter and two daughters, one six and the other nine years old; also Mr. Wilson, who was not there at the time. The above-named people lived in two houses immediately together, on the northwest side of the creek. Mr. Lafferty, four children, and a woman, lived immediately opposite; and a Mexican, Cosme Ramos, and wife, lived about three-quarters of a mile higher up the creek. The Indians attacked the two houses that are immediately together, where there was no one except the women and children; Mr. Worman was at the time about seventy yards from the house. As soon as the Indians discovered him, and saw that he was unarmed, they sent two of their party to kill him; the main body taking charge of the women and children, destroyed everything in or about the houses. In the meantime they had sent two of their party in the house opposite. There they found no one but the women and children, Mr. Lafferty having left a few moments previous with his double-barrelled shot-gun. As soon as the woman and children saw these two Indians approach, they ran out of the house towards Mr. Lafferty, who, hearing the noise and seeing the people run towards him, and two men on horseback after them, started to meet them. He immediately pushed the woman and children in the ravine, where he defended them and himself with the two charges his gun contained, having no ammunition with him. The two Indians halloed and motioned to their companions, who were tormenting the women and children and destroying everything.

After satisfying themselves that the work of destruction was completed, they drove the women and children before them, and proceeded to the opposite houses, where they had another jollification in destroying what was there. They then went on towards the ravine where the two Indians were guarding Mr. Lafferty, and halted about one hundred yards from it, and there committed the greatest crime of crimes.

They ended by beating out the brains of the mother and her two daughters. While some were engaged in this horrible work, others were trying all stratagems to get at Mr. Lafferty in the ravine, without exposing themselves. At last, one of the Indians crawled to the mouth of the ravine, while others were at the side to draw off Mr. Lafferty's attention. While Mr. Lafferty was pointing his gun at

those at his flank, two of the arrows from the bow of the Indian at the mouth of the ravine took effect—one piercing his right breast and the other his leg, below the knee; but neither of the wounds is very dangerous. Mr. Lafferty immediately shot at the Indian.

A letter to the Herald, dated Laredo, September 18, says:

“The county from here to the Nueces is just now overrun with Indians, who have been down since the 1st. A citizen of this place was attacked by them on the Nueces on the 18th instant. There are at least forty warriors in the party. They camped on the night of the 12th in the edge of this town; on the 13th they divided into squads and put off from the river, twenty of them taking the Corpus Christi road.

Fifteen miles out they killed one man and mortally wounded another. On the 13th they appeared almost simultaneously at a number of ranches above and below town, and robbed and plundered the same, taking all the horses they could find. The main body proceeded down towards Roma, and stole from one man two hundred and twenty-five head of horses, and are now coming out of the country with them. They travel very slowly and camp at night, exhibiting no fear whatever. They are making up the Nueces, and will evidently pass the road from this to San Antonio to-day.

On the 10th we sent out a company of twenty-two men to hunt them on the Nueces. They have found the Indian camp and a cabalado, and are guarding it until the Indians return.

On the 15th we sent out another company, eighteen strong, to assist the main company. They are bound to fight to-day or back out. If the party below is forty strong, as every one says, then they have no less than sixty or seventy warriors, for there is now a company operating above town. They are so strong our citizens are rather fearful about attacking, and in the meantime the Indians are armed with all the confidence necessary for a hard fight.

They have now been in our midst eighteen days, easy to be found any day, and not a gun fired at them.

Very respectfully,

JOHN C. EVINS.

13 c.

More mischief.

Since the notice of the horrid murders, and still worse crimes, near Eagle Pass, we have been permitted to publish the following letter:

LAREDO, September 17, 1859.

Hon. J. L. HAYNES: We are entirely at the mercy of the Indians in this vicinity. Since you left, three different parties have made their appearance; the third and last consisting of fifteen Indians, two negroes, and a white man, passed down to San Ignacio; from thence into the interior, where they surprised, captured, and killed seven

shepherds outright. Another party, on the road between this place and Los Ojioles, met two Mexicans, killed one and wounded the other, (as they supposed mortally,) and left him for dead. The poor devil crawled into the bushes, and was found the next day, and brought into town with just sufficient life left to make a confession to the padre. The other party carried off all the horses of Bartolo Garcia, whose ranche is seven miles from town. Bartolo left last night with twenty-two men in pursuit.

Don Bacilio and his party have found one hundred head of animals in a very secluded place near the Nueces, all hobbled. These animals were left by the Indians to be taken upon their return from below. Don Bacilio is now on his way here with the captured animals.

The old tambour has been beaten every day since you left, calling for volunteers until there is not a man left in town that can possibly get a horse to mount. This is no varnished picture of the condition of things here now. How long it will last no one knows.

GARDNER W. PIERCE.

Our senator and representative elect should, and we doubt not will, immediately exert themselves to have troops sent to the Rio Grande, since these Indians mostly come from Mexico. The abandonment of the Rio Grande is unheard-of folly.

13 d.

Indians at Laredo.

LAREDO, TEXAS, *September 18, 1859.*

MR. EDITOR: Allow me, through your columns, to notify your people, and particularly that part living between the city and Nueces, that the country from here to the Nueces is just now overrun with Indians who have been down since the 1st. A citizen of this place was attacked by them on the Nueces the 1st instant. There are at least forty warriors in the party. They camped on the night of the 12th in the edge of this town; the 13th they divided in squads, and put off from the river, twenty of them taking the Corpus Cristi road. Fifteen miles out they killed one man and mortally wounded another. On the 13th they appeared almost simultaneously at a number of ranchos above and below the town, and robbed and plundered the same, taking all the horses they could find. The main body proceeded down towards Roma, and stole from one man two hundred and twenty-five head of horses, and are now coming out of the country with them. They travel very slowly and camp at night, exhibiting no fear whatever. They are making up the Nueces, and will evidently pass the road from this to San Antonio to-day.

On the 10th we sent out a company of twenty-two men to hunt them on the Nueces. They have found the Indian camp and a cavallado, and are guarding it until the Indians return. On the 15th we sent out another company, eighteen strong, to assist the main com-

pany. They are bound to fight to-day or back out. If the party below is forty strong, as every one says, then they have no less than sixty or seventy warriors, for there is now a company operating above town. They are so strong our citizens are rather fearful about attacking. And in the meantime the Indians are armed with all the confidence necessary for a hard fight.

They have now been in our midst eighteen days, easy to be found any day, and not a gun fired at them.

Very respectfully,

JOHN C. EVINS.

No. 14.

General Twiggs to the Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, October 7, 1859.

SIR: Enclosed herewith is transmitted a letter just received from the collector at Brownsville, on the Rio Grande.

There are at present, it is said, small parties of marauding Indians supposed to be from across the Rio Grande. This will be the case often. There are no parties of hostile Indians within the limits of Texas.

I shall order one company of infantry to the junction of the Leona and Frio rivers, and one to some point on the Rio Grande below Fort Duncan. A detachment of artillery has been ordered to scout between Forts Clark and Duncan, and a company of cavalry (Stineman's) from Camp Hudson to the same point.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS.

Brev't Maj. Gen. U. S. A., Com'g Department.

Col. S. COOPER,

Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.

14 a.

BROWNSVILLE, *September 28, 1859.*

SIR: I address you under extraordinary circumstances. Last night a crowd or banditti of men, numbering fifty, entered this town and committed the most inhuman and cold-blooded murders on the persons of three American citizens and one of Mexican origin that was ever perpetrated on this frontier. The banditti entered the town on horses, and well armed. After having murdered the above number, it became near daylight, when assistance was asked from the authorities of Matamoras. Immediately some of the most influential citizens of that place came over, through whom the banditti were induced to retire from the town. In the meantime the disposable force (militia)

of Matamoras were ordered to the bank of the river, immediately opposite this place, to cross the river, if necessary, to assist in protecting the lives and property of the citizens here. Finally, a truce was made until night, when the aforesaid Mexican gentlemen, Don Macedon, Captain Don Agopita Longoria, and Don Miguel Sigerina, myself accompanying them, went to their camp, about eight miles above this place, and, after much persuasion, induced the crowd to disperse. They are made up of the dangerous class of the Mexican population, and may return and sack the town at any moment. They traversed every street in the town, entering the barracks, and killing a former employé of Lieutenant Langdon, (George Morris.) They also disarmed the man who guards the magazine, and attempted to force the doors in order to fire the powder, (125 barrels,) but did not succeed.

In short, the place is in perfect turmoil. Families are leaving for Matamoras for protection, and those who are compelled to remain here, not exceeding one hundred Americans, are under arms day and night, expecting another attack from the marauders. I ask of you, if consistent with your official duty, to send us assistance in the shape of a company of United States soldiers, to assist in the protection of life and property in this town and vicinity. The citizens, as well as the several town and city authorities, have also petitioned you for the same object, and hope for relief, if possible. The United States property, except a few residences in the fort, is under my charge and protection; the exceptions are some houses that Lieutenant Langdon retained for some of the persons in his employ, left by him in charge of property belonging to the United States quartermaster's department. I have increased the guard of the magazine and the property generally, as all the buildings are built of wood, and once fired all would be lost. The keys of the magazine are in the hands of the sergeant, who is now on Brazos island. I have endeavored to give you an idea of our situation at present; but in the excited state of the population here, and being disconcerted myself, I cannot go into all the details that the necessity of the case demands.

I neglected to mention that, before they left town, the murderers shot and killed the jailer and burst the prison doors, letting loose on the community ten or twelve murderers and robbers, (prisoners.) The prevailing opinion here is, that if there had been government troops in the garrison, such a number of men could not have been induced to have entered the town.

We are sadly in need of the protection of the government at this place.

We feel somewhat humiliated at the necessity of calling on the Mexican authorities for protection.

Please excuse the hasty and disconnected manner in which this is written.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

FRANCIS W. LATHAM,

Collector District of Brazos de Santiago, Texas.

General DAVID E. TWIGGS,

Commander of the 8th Military Department,

San Antonio, Texas.

15. *Mr. Hemphill to the President.*

AUSTIN, October 8, 1859.

SIR: I have just heard of an outrage on our frontier, at Brownsville, of a character so flagrant and astonishing that I would not believe it possible, if the information were not on undoubted authority. A party of Mexicans crossed the river from Matamoras, captured the town of Brownsville, liberated the prisoners from jail, and murdered five of the citizens, retaining possession of the town for an hour. If this statement be true, I cannot doubt you will have heard the particulars before this can reach Washington.

I wrote you some days since, urging protection to this frontier, and enclosing documents showing the state of the country, its defenceless condition, and the barbarities of the Indians. This frontier is encompassed with difficulties from other quarters, and the ravages of marauders will not be less terrible than the hostilities of the savage. The same force that entered Brownsville could have captured Brazos St. Jago, with the custom-house and the immense property and funds belonging to the government and others. I trust that the troops will be speedily ordered to the abandoned posts of the Rio Grande, and that outrages will become impossible.

With the highest respect, your obedient servant,

JOHN HEMPHILL.

His excellency JAMES BUCHANAN,
President of the United States.

16. *Mr. Hemphill to the President.*

AUSTIN, TEXAS, October 17, 1859.

SIR: Herewith I enclose you a copy of a petition* from a committee of the citizens of Brownsville, on the Rio Grande, to his excellency Hardin R. Runnels, the governor of this State, presenting in detail the circumstances of the capture of that city, the slaughter of several of the citizens, the liberation of the prisoners, and other outrages of an armed banditti of nearly one hundred men, mostly if not altogether persons of Mexican birth. Having written to you a short time since on the defenceless state of the lower Rio Grande frontier, and having informed you by letter during the past week of the irruption of the bandits as set forth in this petition, I shall not add a single word except to state that the governor has deemed the emergency so great as to have required him to send one hundred volunteers to that city. I have the most perfect reliance on the soundness of your judgment, and feel assured that you will not hesitate to remand the troops to the abandoned post on the Rio Grande with the speed demanded by the

* See No. 12 of these papers, enclosure a.

urgency of the circumstances, the safety of the citizen, and the honor and authority of the government on a frontier which for many hundred miles is without a soldier or means of defence.

With sentiments of the highest consideration, I remain your very obedient servant,

JOHN HEMPHILL.

His excellency JAMES BUCHANAN,
President of the United States, Washington.

17. *Mr. Powers to the President.*

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, October 18, 1859.

SIR: You will have been advised, by a copy of a letter sent to you, addressed to Governor Runnels, of our State, under date of the 3d instant, of the state of affairs in this exposed frontier.

From that day till now, and every night, our citizens have been under arms, ready to repel the threatened attack of Cortinas and his band of outlaws. This man, as before stated, has great influence with a certain class of his countrymen, being Mexicans. He himself pretends to the rights of American citizenship; of this we know nothing; it is sufficient to our purpose to state that he takes refuge in Matamoras, he issues his threats from there; he collects his men there, he crosses from that side to this, recrosses at pleasure, he receives the countenance of persons of consideration and influence in Matamoras; yet the local authorities declare they have no power to arrest him. Had not this man dashed into our town and killed several of our citizens in cold blood while many of us were yet asleep, we would not believe these things could be, yet so it is; and so long as his men are together, or in a condition to gather by retreating into Mexico, we are not safe. We do not believe idle rumors, but gather our information from what we deem reliable authority, derived from persons of known respectability. We urge upon you to interpose the majesty of this government by applying all its force towards the rendition of this felon for trial. We shall not have security until this be done.

The other day a patrol captured a man known to have acted a prominent part in the deeds of the 28th of September; Cortinas is at this moment collecting forces to secure this man. He threatens to burn and sack the place in his attempt. His ruffians are known, so far as their character is concerned, to be equal to the emergency.

Our American population is small—does not number over ninety adults in this county; the balance of our population is made largely of Mexicans, and a few foreigners, principally merchants. We have no adequate arms; the country people have them not; they are for the most part poor and destitute. Many of our citizens threaten to remove to Matamoras, and there remain till they can leave the country, unless otherwise protected here; this will inevitably be the fate of the whole American population, and thus sacrifice the few gains of ten or twelve years of privation and industry. So imminent have these things be-

come, that the citizens have deputed Mr. James B. Thomas, one of our number, to bear this letter in person to you, and have deputed the undersigned to address you this letter, which fully portrays our condition, in the hopes that you will give us that aid our situation demands, and vindicate the majesty of the laws of our country, by demanding the extradition of the criminal, and thus teach the rabble and human dregs of two frontiers that these things cannot nor shall not be.

We remain, with high respect, your obedient servants,
 STEPHEN POWERS,
Chief Justice of Cameron County, and Mayor of Brownsville.
 His excellency JAMES BUCHANAN,
President of the United States.

18. *Lieutenant Langdon to the President.*

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS,
 Wednesday, October 18, 1859.

SIR: Having been requested by the citizens of this place to address you in their behalf, and state to you the miserable situation in which they find themselves placed, with the hope that you may afford them relief, I have the honor to say: First, that the letter from Mr. Powers, the mayor of this city, asking your interference, has been perused by me, and his statement is fully borne out by the facts of the case. Secondly, the people of this town, cheerfully bearing up under the fatigue of daily and nightly guards, cannot long sustain the part they have assumed. The city is kept in a constant state of alarm. The first outrage was committed on the 28th ultimo, and even up to the present moment the danger is believed to be more threatening than ever. The business of the place will soon be gone. No security for life or property is felt. The number of white people is so very small, compared to the foreign, that the interest felt in its defence is necessarily confined to those few, because they are the people whose lives are wanted by the outlaw who makes his home in Matamoras. The foreign population look, of course, or will look in this crisis, to their own government; I am speaking of Mexicans, who, when they find that they can no longer bear the labor of watching and drilling, will emigrate to Mexico. I would gladly have seen some officer higher in rank than myself make this representation. I have been for several days assisting the citizens in their defences, and it was that fact, taken in connexion with my knowledge of all the circumstances of the case, that induced them to ask me to co-operate with them in their request.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 LOOMIS L. LANGDON,
Second Lieutenant 1st Artillery.

His excellency JAMES BUCHANAN,
President of the United States.

19. *Mr. Harris to Mr. Floyd.*

[By telegraph—Dated New Orleans, October 24, 1859. Received at Washington 24th, 1859,
2 o'clock 20 minutes p. m.]

Mr. J. B. Thomas, acting in behalf of the people of Brownsville, Texas, *en route* for Washington city to sue for immediate aid, wishes to know if troops have been ordered to the Rio Grande frontier; and if ordered, how soon they may be expected at the scene of insurrection and invasion? Cortinas, the outlaw, is again up the American side, at the head of a superior force. Please telegraph answer immediately.

J. C. HARRIS,
President S. S. S. Company.

Hon. SECRETARY OF WAR.

20. *The Adjutant General to General Twiggs.*

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, October 25, 1859.

GENERAL: Your letter of the 9th instant, enclosing a communication from the collector of the "district of Brazos de Santiago, Texas," in reference to the depredations of Mexican banditti at and in the vicinity of Brownsville, has been received and laid before the Secretary of War, who directs that you issue the necessary instructions for the immediate reoccupation of Fort Brown by two companies of the 1st artillery from Fort Clark.

I have the honor to be, general,

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. COOPER,
Adjutant General.

Brevet Maj. Gen. D. E. TWIGGS,

U. S. Army, or Commanding Officer

Department of Texas, San Antonio, Texas.

21. *Mr. Harris and others to the President.*

NEW ORLEANS, LA., *October 25, 1859.*

The undersigned, merchants and citizens of New Orleans, would beg leave to represent to the President that the state of affairs upon the lower Rio Grande is menacing the important trade between that region of country and this city, and that unless prompt action be taken in the premises, its destruction is regarded as inevitable, and the depopulation of the American side of the Rio Grande, in addition, must speedily occur. Mr. J. B. Thomas, the agent of the people of Brownsville, is fully authorized and prepared to lay before you a de-

tailed statement of the border ruffian outrages which have called into requisition this our prayer for immediate government interposition.

J. C. Harris, president Southern Steamship Company.	Goodrich & Co.
Corns. B. Payne, manager Southern Steamship Company.	Perdseauville Bros.
Peet Simmes & Co.	J. Massinas.
Caballero & Basualds.	Thomas Sloo, president Sun Mutual Insurance Co.
Bradley Wilson.	James H. Wheeler, sect'y Home Mutual Insurance Co.
Cramer & Co.	Chas. Briggs, president Louisiana Mutual Insurance Co.
W. H. Letchford.	A. Chiapella, president Union Insurance Co.
E. Marqueze & Co.	J. H. Phelps.
Taylor, Knapp & Co.	Cooper & Neibert.
Stark, Stouffer & Co.	O. Talamon & Dessommes.
Thos. A. Adams, president Crescent Mutual Insurance Co.	Wheeler, Geiger & Co.
J. M. Fincks, secretary of New Orleans Mutual Insurance Co.	Pierson, Harrison & Co.
Louis Barnett, secretary of Hope Insurance Co.	James O. Druegre.
O. R. Graham & Co.	Charles A. Janvier.
R. McDowell & Co.	J. M. Lapryse.
H. R. Mills & Co.	R. M. Davis.
J. M. Car, Bros. & Co.	George A. Trevitt.
Preem & Couterrie.	Joseph Ray.
G. W. Dunbar & Co.	Thomas Layton.
H. Slocomb & Co.	Ogilvy & Macaulay.
Charles Lessassier, secretary Merchants' Mutual Insurance Co.	W. A. Violette & Co.
	Holmes & Sperry.
	Voorhies, Greggs & Co.

JAMES BUCHANAN,

President of the United States.

22. *Mr. Slidell to the President.*

NEW ORLEANS, October 25, 1859.

MY DEAR SIR: I beg leave to present to your acquaintance J. B. Thomas, esq., who is about to visit Washington, charged by the citizens of Brownsville, Texas, with the mission of soliciting the detachment to this place of a body of United States troops sufficient to protect them against the inroads of Mexican marauders. Mr. Thomas will present you a memorial, signed by a number of our most intelligent merchants, presidents of banks and insurance companies. We of New Orleans feel a deep interest in the success of Mr. T.'s application, which I take the liberty of recommending to your most favorable consideration. The remedy to be efficacious should be prompt.

Very respectfully, your friend and servant,

JOHN SLIDELL.

The PRESIDENT.

23. *Mr. Drinkard to Mr. Hemphill.*WAR DEPARTMENT, *October 29, 1859.*

SIR: The President has referred to this department your letter of the 17th instant, relative to the recent outrages at Brownsville.

In reply, I have the honor to inform you that the Secretary has given directions for two companies of the 1st artillery from Fort Clark to proceed at once to Fort Brown, and to reoccupy that post, for the protection of the frontier.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. R. DRINKARD,
Acting Secretary of War.

Hon. JOHN HEMPHILL,
Austin, Texas.

24. *Mr. Bull to the President.*ELMIRA, NEW YORK, *October 29, 1859.*

SIR: I presume you have been officially apprised of the sad condition of our frontier citizens in Texas. The enclosed letter from my old friend and correspondent of the Brownsville "Flag," now proprietor and editor of that paper, explains very fully the impending evils resulting from their helpless condition at that extreme post. I most cheerfully comply with his earnest request that I should lay the subject before you.

Mr. Kinney is a gentleman of high standing, late a member of the State legislature from Corpus Christi, and formerly a citizen of Bradford county.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. M. BULL.

His excellency JAMES BUCHANAN,
President of the United States.

24 a.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA,
October 21, 1859.

MY DEAR SIR: From Mrs. Kinney I have been informed of the receipt of your kind letter in reply to certain interrogations. Upon my return to Corpus Christi it will receive my earnest consideration. Meantime I beg leave to lay before you a letter from Brownsville, published in yesterday's Picayune. Positively I do not know who is its author, but am inclined to think that it is Colonel Latham, deputy collector of the Brazos Santiago district. But this I do know: It is

a plain, matter-of-fact statement of our Rio Grande affairs, and one that is deserving of immediate administrative consideration, and, consequent thereupon, speedy action. I am anxious to return to Brownsville, and resume my editorial labors; but I shall not return until affairs change, which will not occur until a strong force is quartered upon the Rio Grande. Will you not further the ends of humanity and justice by laying this subject before Mr. Buchanan, and interpose your counsel in person?

Yours, truly,

SOMERS KINNEY.

Col. D. M. BULL.

24 b.

The late attack on Brownsville.

CORTINAS, THE LEADER, AND HIS CHARACTER.

[Special correspondence of the Picayune.]

BROWNSVILLE, October 10, 1859.

You will receive, by the steamship Indianola, the proclamation of Nepomaceno Cortinas, who is at this time in Matamoras, fêted and lionized by principal citizens there, we are told, as a hero. As to his promises not to visit us again, which we put no faith in, they are spoken of by him and by them as made out of regard solely to our helplessness.

And when you reflect that we have 12,000 people here in our neighborhood—much nearer to us than the people of Gretna and Algiers to New Orleans; that of these, not over 300 men, women, or children sympathize with Americans, as such, no matter what their extraction; and when you are assured that, under a polite exterior, the deepest, settled hatred exists in the Mexican mind towards us, running far back, but intensified since the late war with Mexico, you will understand how great reason we have to be in a state of the utmost trepidation.

The massacre of our citizens is not alone to be feared, nor the destruction of property, but the outlaws spare neither child nor woman, whose fate is far the most dreadful; and what is more, there are not over fifty American citizens, native or naturalized, here whose origin and sympathies are not Mexican. The conspiracy is thought to be widespread.

The complaints Cortinas makes are all idle and untrue. There is no suit existing or threatened against him or any of his family. On the contrary, his mother and brother, who have been among us, were kindly cared for, and sent home without injury. The brother is an assessor and collector of taxes.

The Mr. Glavaicke, of whom Cortinas speaks, is connected by mar-

riage with his family, and their quarrel is wholly a family one. There is no respectable Mexican on our side of the river openly in his favor; but we have every fear that the mere hatred of the Gringos—as all Americans are called by them—will unite them in the common design of blotting out our unfortunate city and its whole population.

On Saturday last the Mexican national guard left here for Matamoras, greatly to the relief of most of our people, who had great dread of them, fearing them to be more likely to turn against us than otherwise. They were escorted to the ferry by all our citizen force, and the officers duly speechified and embraced by our committee of safety.

You will perceive the high encomiums in the paper published here on the people of Matamoras, the soldiers, the officers, and note, too, how carefully even Cortinas is mentioned. This may be very well, for we are over a bed of burning coals, and care is necessary to get off from so dangerous a position. Had a party left to attack Cortinas at any time while he was intrenched above, not one of them would have returned, and our town would have been laid in ashes. Here we are, separated by a region of country almost without a settler, one hundred and seventy miles from the Nueces, and wholly at the mercy of the people of Matamoras. On the day Cortinas entered, no two men could have assembled together—no man could have appeared on the streets with arms without being shot down, and the few who had arms did not have them loaded. It was only by the interference of General Carvajal, who told the Mexican authorities that they must put a stop to this, or vengeance would fall on Matamoras, that interposition was had, and we were saved from destruction first by detail, and then universal. "Death to the Gringos!" "Death to all Americans!" "Long live Mexico!" were their cries.

We keep up now an armed guard of twenty-two paid men always on duty, and twenty-five heavily-armed citizens patrol the place from 9 p. m. to 6 a. m. This work will soon break us all down. For God's sake, urge the government to send us relief. Let the great guns again watch over our dear sister Matamoras, and the soldiers of Uncle Samuel keep marauders here in check, or practically the line of boundary between the United States and Mexico must be moved back to the Nueces. Already one of our principal merchants is offering his entire property, stock and everything, at thirty-three and a half per cent. discount to be enabled to leave, and many others are prepared to follow.

25. *General Twiggs to the Adjutant General.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, November 1, 1859.

SIR: The enclosed order is issued this morning, as I have seen the Adjutant General's letter to Mr. J. C. Harris, of New Orleans, in the papers. By the time the order reaches this the companies will be in

readiness, but will not march until the receipt of the order. An express will be sent to Major French to have the companies ready.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS,
*Brevet Major General United States Army,
Commanding Department.*

Col. S. COOPER,
Adjutant General, United States Army, Washington, D. C.

25 a.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, November 1, 1859.

SPECIAL ORDERS No. 96.

1. Immediately on the receipt hereof, the commanding officer of Fort Clark, Texas, will designate two companies from his command to reoccupy Fort Brown. These companies will hold themselves prepared to march at a moment's notice on receiving further instructions from these headquarters. They will be required to march with only such baggage as may be actually necessary while *en route*, leaving the remainder to be afterwards forwarded.

* * * * *

By order of Brevet Major General Twiggs:

T. A. WASHINGTON,
First Lieutenant First Infantry.

26. *Mr. Hale to Mr. Floyd.*

GALVESTON, November 7, 1859.

SIR: Soon after the commencement of the present disturbances at Brownsville, in this State, I was requested by several citizens of that place to represent to you the necessity of immediate aid; but as I understood that a direct application had been made to you by the inhabitants of the city, it seemed improper to add anything of mine. The news recently received, however, makes it a duty for me to place before you a statement of the present condition of the Rio Grande frontier, and to appeal to you in behalf of friends whose fortunes and lives are at stake. Perhaps this statement, however imperfectly made, may serve to explain the causes of this extraordinary affair, and show the urgency of the danger.

You are already aware that Cortinas and his party, after taking possession on the 28th of September of the city of Brownsville and Fort Brown, and murdering several of the citizens, retired from the town and encamped at a distance of about twelve miles, awaiting re-

inforcements. The Mexican troops, summoned by the inhabitants of Brownsville to their aid, after occupying Fort Brown for some weeks, retired to Matamoras. The American citizens of Brownsville meantime had organized themselves into two volunteer companies, and kept patrols day and night in the environs and through the streets of the city. They obtained from Lieutenant Langdon, the only officer of the United States army left upon the frontier, permission to use some mountain howitzers and ammunition, and the captain of one of the river steamboats contributed his four-pound field-piece. In a sally made by the townspeople they took a lieutenant of Cortinas, named Cabrera, and hold him still in custody. Upon this Cortinas threatened to burn the town. The mayor again applied to the authorities of Matamoras, and obtained the aid of about seventy men of the national guard of that city. With these and some forty rancheros, who had taken part with the Americans, and sixteen of the latter, an attack was made upon Cortinas, which resulted in the defeat of the attacking party, with the loss of one howitzer and the field-piece. Cortinas now renews his threat of attacking Brownsville, and the inhabitants are waiting behind their rude barricades for a trial of strength. I need not dwell upon the insecurity of life and property, the stagnation of trade, the disastrous effect upon our national character abroad, which this state of affairs has produced. I need not represent to you the miserable condition of the citizens of Brownsville, under arms for six weeks, and exposed at every moment to the uncertain chances of a combat in which their lives, fortunes, and honor are to be risked. You can appreciate all this, and I can say nothing to enhance the picture.

But it may be necessary to explain why these occurrences should be thought to transcend the ordinary civil remedies, and why the aid of the United States should be invoked. It is true that Americans, and especially Texans, have usually been found able to protect themselves with or without the sanction of law, and were this a case of common riot, or had it happened in the interior of the State, the courts or the people would have suppressed it; but as Brownsville, although a commercial town of considerable nominal population, has, in fact, not more than a hundred American citizens capable of bearing arms—the rest are Mexicans, of whom but few, and those of the higher classes only, have any attachment to the government under which they live—it can scarcely be expected that a hundred undisciplined militia can repel, without assistance, so formidable an attack. Assistance has been summoned from the interior of the State; the governor has directed the enlistment of a company of rangers; volunteers will no doubt come from the counties on the Nueces; but the distance over which the volunteers and rangers will have to pass is more than one hundred and fifty miles, and the forces of Cortinas may be more speedily increased. Already, it is said, the robbers who took Durango, and those who entered Victoria and liberated the felons in the jails of that capital, are on their way to Brownsville. From all quarters the thieves, the highwaymen, and the murderers, who swarm through Mexico, pour into the camp of Cortinas. His pretence that this is a private quarrel is only used for a time; it will be

dropped when his force enables him to become a military leader. Already he receives public dinners and laudations from his sympathizers in Matamoras; he draws money, arms, and ammunition from beyond the Rio Grande; he appeals to the national antipathies of the Mexicans, and to enmities excited by the last war. It is impossible to doubt that his movements are planned and directed by other minds for some ulterior effect upon the internal politics of Mexico, or the international relations between that country and the United States. Conjectures are perhaps useless at this time, but I may suggest two objects to which this affair may be designed to lead: One, the easy and unnoticed concentration of a reactionist force in northern Mexico, to be directed upon Nueva Leon or Tamaulipas; the other, the provocation of a quarrel between the United States and Mexico, which might rally to the central administration of Mexico the support of the whole nation.

The country between the Rio Grande and Nueces is, for sixty miles from the former river, occupied by Mexican ranchos, with one exception—that of M. Kennedy, at a point about thirty miles from Reynosa; in the next forty miles there are scarcely any settlements. The next rancho is Santa Rosa, owned in part by myself, and now a post office; then follow a number of American ranchos as far as the Nueces. By a letter from Santa Rosa, dated October 29, I am informed that a party from Reynosa were then on their way to attack Kennedy's rancho, and that his manager was removing his horses to a safer position. This will serve to show the extent and character of the movement. The avowed intention of the party under Cortinas is to take possession of the whole country to the Nueces. It can scarcely be doubted that these facts present a proper case for the interference and protecting power of the United States. A few companies of the troops now in Utah would serve as a nucleus for the concentration of the American population of the frontier, and their presence alone would inspire respect and prevent disorders. The withdrawal of the garrisons on the lower Rio Grande has given the impression of our weakness; their return would exhibit our strength. Emergencies may occur in the conflict of parties in Mexico which may make it necessary to cause the neutrality of our territory to be respected; at present nothing can prevent its serving as a battle-field for the disorganized armies, and a refuge for the disorderly rabble of the hostile factions. The objection of the unhealthiness of the climate is not well founded; the occasional attacks of epidemics might be avoided by a temporary encampment during the summer at a convenient distance from the river.

It is not necessary to say more to call to your attention the need of prompt action; and it will be with satisfaction and gratitude that the American residents of the Rio Grande valley will learn that it has been decided by the government to reoccupy permanently the posts along their line. The business of the towns on that frontier exceeds five millions of dollars per annum, and with the assurance of safety their trade will rapidly increase. Without the protection of disciplined troops they must decline, and the country between the Rio

Grande and the Nueces, now covered with innumerable herds, will again become a desert.

I trust you will pardon me if my sympathy for my friends, and perhaps my own interest, has made this letter too prolix and too urgent, and I shall remain,

With sincere respect, your obedient servant,

WM. G. HALE.

Hon. J. B. FLOYD,

Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.

27. *Mr. Hale to Mr. Floyd.*

GALVESTON, November 9, 1859.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose to you two extras of the "American Flag," published at Brownsville, and a copy of the "Galveston News," containing articles relating to the Brownsville affair.

In a letter received this morning from Santa Rosa, (which place is about one hundred miles from Brownsville, on the road to San Antonio,) it is stated that Mr. Thomas and family passed there on the 5th instant, having fled from the Rio Grande on account of the imminent danger to which they were exposed, and stated that on the road they heard cannon in the direction of Brownsville, and supposed an attack had been made on the city. This must have been on the 1st or 2d of November. The writer of the letter, Mr. Barton, who is postmaster at Santa Rosa, states that for eight days no mail has been received from Brownsville, both mail and mail rider being detained by the insurgents.

I remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. G. HALE.

Hon. J. B. FLOYD,

Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.

27 a.

"AMERICAN FLAG"—EXTRA.

TUESDAY, October 25, 1859.

Our unfortunate city is in peril beyond any which has heretofore threatened it. The force which went up to attack Cortinas' camp met with such defeat on yesterday as is painful for us to chronicle. It was composed of about sixty rancheros and twenty Americans on one side, and fifty of the Matamoras infantry, under Lieutenant Colonel Laranca—the force from one side being under the command of Captain Tompson. They carried with them a 4-pounder belonging to the Mexican force, and a 4-pound howitzer belonging to Captain Kennedy. They arrived at the rancho of Doña Estafana (the mother of Cortinas) late in the afternoon, which they found in the possession of about twenty

men, who, after one or two volleys, retired about two hundred yards above. These proved to be the advanced guard of the banditti. After a few moments of deliberation, one of two corrals (which are horse pens built of high posts) was selected for a camp, but, through some want of concert, a portion got into one, and others in another. It was then thought well to despatch the horsemen on a scout around and through the *Potrero*, and thence to the landing to secure the boats so as to prevent the band from escaping to the other side. Subsequently a number of men on foot were sent up the road to find, and, if possible, dislodge the enemy. The little howitzer went with them. They soon came to where the road passed through a dense chaparral, and they imprudently proceeded some distance, when a heavy and general fire was opened upon them from an enemy unseen and undiscoverable. Finding the howitzer useless, they sent it back and brought up the cannon, in a hope that a few round shot thrown into the woods might dislodge the enemy. At the third fire it rebounded and fell off its carriage. Colonel Laranca was expecting the mounted men, but they failed to come; but now some six or seven mounted Americans came up and retook the gun, yet were unable to remount it, nor could they persuade any of the men on foot to come up and assist, so that they were forced to abandon it. By this time the rout became general; the mounted men had mostly left, the majority of the infantry followed, and at last a few who had remained with the little howitzer at the corral, finding themselves unaided and so few in number that they were unable to put the howitzer into the river, or to destroy the ammunition, as they desired, left also. Antonio Espinosa and others, however, were able to get it into the river afterwards, but we learn that Cortinas has since got it out. There was miserably slight preparation made for the enterprise; few had percussion caps for more than four or five charges, many of the cartridges were found too large for the muskets, and at the close of the attack, when there was an attempt made for a rally, there was not ammunition enough for a single round to each of the soldiers on foot. Some supplies of ammunition had arrived during the fight, but it had not yet been made known to Mr. Glavecke, who was charged with its distribution, and he went in great haste towards the city for a resupply. The infantry, who had fought most bravely in the midst of an ambuscade, being out of ammunition, were compelled to retire. Suffice it to say, that Cortinas has won a victory, is in possession of two very efficient pieces of artillery and all the ammunition belonging to them, of a large keg of rifle powder, and some provisions which were on the route when the fight took place. It is said that he has two men at the least killed, if not more, while on our side four of the Mexican force were wounded at their gun, but none killed; one of the men from Brownsville (a Mexican) was badly wounded. From what we can judge and divine from the statements of those present, especially from the report of Lieutenant Colonel Laranca and Mr. Tompson, Cortinas had some two hundred and fifty or three hundred men. This is, however, conjectural, as others estimate it far less. Few of the bandits were seen at any one time; but, as an old United States soldier observed, fifty men, hid as they were, could have

stampeded five hundred in a road guarding dismounted cannon. Cortinas will of course be able now greatly to increase his band, having artillery and the prestige of victory to aid him. Indeed, it is already known that he received a considerable accession on the very night of the rout of our men. He has good arms, and his men are under discipline, and fight with zeal. Yesterday he again stopped the United States mail coming from Laredo, cut it open, examined each letter in it, opening all but two, kept the mail rider until to-day, and then sent him down with such of the open letters and way-bills as he did not care to retain. This mail rider left him this day examining the contents of the mail bag which left Brownsville this morning. The man certainly shows great skill as well as courage. How he maintains the smallest force named for him is an enigma, and he continues to keep his plans and his operations a secret. He began about a month ago with about eighty men. If he has not increased their number, he must have been at great expense in retaining them and their horses in service. So far he has done but little. For the purposes of private revenge he does not need such a force, and while he maintains it he cannot gratify his revenge without vast injury to himself, his friends, and to this whole region, as well as our citizens. He must have some ulterior object, but what that is no one has yet learned. He seems to wait his time and opportunity, and this with a self-reliance and a firmness of purpose which may well give us pause. On yesterday Mr. Jefferson Barthelow, who has been sojourning for awhile in San Fernando, Tamaulipas, returned with his family, seeking protection!

Some sixty felons under sentence in the prisons of Victoria had been released by the populace, and had levied their contributions on the rich of that place. They have since recruited others, until it is reported that they have a large band, who are visiting and robbing the ranchos, and who expected finally to make their way out to Matamoras and Brownsville. Our neighbors over the way are beginning to dread a union between the band under Cortinas with that from Victoria and San Fernando. If any thing near that which is reported is correct as to their numbers, there is no telling the danger which a coalition would produce. With the aid of the chaparral, and the wide distances which separate the various ranchos not upon the river, they would defy pursuit, and yet be ever dangerous. Who were their friends we might never know; they might be the only the far-off reactionaries of the Mexican republic, and they might be those who make their money off our own people in our own midst. Who supports Cortinas; who arms his men with the best and most costly arms; what is his ultimate mission; even what is his present force and his immediate designs, are all unknown to us. But of one thing we feel assured, that older, more experienced, and better instructed heads than his have been consulted by him, and have assisted in the direction of his forces.

We are now barricading our streets and preparing for an attack upon the town, which we may expect night by night. For ten days past nearly every man has remained on the watch all or most of the night. We are wellnigh worn out, but will persevere, hoping

for the arrival of the promised rangers. If there are any friends of ours within striking distance, we hope they will not fail at once to come to our relief.

27 b.

BROWNSVILLE, *October 23, 1859.*

EDITORS NEWS: The city is hourly expecting an attack, and the people of all classes are under the highest state of excitement. Cortinas is strongly fortified upon the road leading up the Rio Grande, about eight miles from this place, with a force variously estimated at from two to five hundred, and his force is daily being increased by thieves and murderers from Camargo, Reynosa, Los Cuevas, San Carlos, Victoria, and other places. He allows no person to pass him without an arrest and examination, and with an occasional hanging. Yesterday he arrested the Laredo mail rider and detained him all day. On Friday, the 21st instant, we got up a party of eight men, mostly Mexicans, with a small piece of artillery, who proceeded under our sheriff to within two miles of his camp; but from information derived from our scouts they declined making an attack with that force, and notified the committee of safety accordingly, who, deeming it unsafe to allow any more force to leave the city, determined again to call upon the military forces of Matamoras for aid, however mortifying it might be to all of us; and last night at sunset Colonels Toranco and Tijirina landed upon this side with seventy men and one brass four-pound field-piece; and, as it has rained ever since they crossed, they are still encamped on what *was once* the garrison of Fort Brown, but which of late has become a vacated common. We hope to attack him to-morrow. A party of cavalry has been despatched from Matamoras to prevent his crossing into Mexico. For twenty-five days and nights we have been under arms, and as yet I see but little hope of any improvement, for, unless we can catch and hang him and his gang, the life of a man who has ventured to act or speak will not be worth sixpence if he happen to be a mile from town.

Every night the women and the children residing upon the skirts of the city leave their homes and congregate in houses within the pickets, not knowing that they will have any homes in the morning.

I am aware that persons who are unacquainted with the population of Brownsville cannot understand why it is that a city with 2,500 population has not wound up this affair; but the fact is, that in our whole population we have not exceeding one hundred and fifty male persons who speak the English language, and not more than fifty Mexicans whose interests and feelings are sufficiently identified with us to cause them to join in the defence of the city, and all of them are required to guard the city within as well as without.

It is impossible to stop all intercourse between the city and country, and hence Cortinas is hourly acquainted with every movement which is made, and boasts of it.

He is augmenting his force with promises of plunder, which is his

true object; and he does not hesitate to declare that his original object in visiting Brownsville was to kill all the civil officers of the country, and then to demand of the merchants one hundred thousand dollars in cash.

There has been an indictment against him in this county for murder for the last eight years, and at the last term of our court several indictments were found against him for horse stealing. Much has been said about arresting him, and hence his anxiety to put the civil authority out of existence. Since his attack of the 29th of September he has had the audacity to propose to us that, as a consideration for his retiring, the authorities should pledge themselves to dismiss all indictments against him, and that in future no prosecutions should be instituted against him or his men. And all of this is the result of the act of our government in breaking up the garrisons upon this frontier. The revolution in Mexico has the effect to keep the *Palado* portion of their population upon the move in order that they may keep out of the reach of the army. As many get upon the Texas side of the river as can, and having no means of support, are ready to join with Cortinas or anybody else on an enterprise that will give them a living without work; hence it is that he can augment his force to any number that he can feed. Cortinas is not alone in this enterprise. Some desperado, with a similar party, last week broke open the jails at Victoria and San Carlos and liberated over one hundred prisoners, who joined them, and who are now *en route* for Matamoras, murdering and robbing at their pleasure.

We require for the protection of the people and the commerce of the lower Rio Grande at least one hundred regular troops to be stationed in Fort Brown, and an equal number of rangers to scour the country up and down the river; and the inhabitants in the vicinity of Ringgold barracks and Laredo need and must have similar protection, or the frontier must be abandoned.

ISRAEL B. BIGELOW.

27 c.

BROWNSVILLE, *November 1, 1859.*

EDITORS NEWS: I wrote on the 23d of October that Colonel Larenco, with seventy Mexican soldiers, was expected to join our Brownsville volunteers and give Cortinas a fight on the next day. The fight was commenced on the 24th, as was expected, under encouraging circumstances, but ended in a general rout of our little army, as you have probably learned before this.

Cortinas managed a retreat from his fortification so that he drew our men into an ambuscade, where the gun-carriages and mules became bogged, and both pieces of artillery were abandoned to the enemy.

By an hour after dark our men commenced arriving in town, some on foot, others on horses, mules, and asses, mostly double, and many of them without arms. Many of the fugitives did not arrive until morning. Of course, such a defeat, connected with the fact that our enemy had possessed himself of two field-pieces and an abundance of

ammunition, was calculated to enliven us who had remained behind to a little more vigilance.

By order of the committee of safety every house and store was shut, and every man able to bear arms was required to step forward for a general defence.

The enemy are daily increasing; every day parties on horseback appear in sight of the town, while parties of ten, twenty, and thirty are ranging in different parts of the country, gathering and driving off all the cattle and horses they can find.

Cortinas is making the rancheros believe that this is a revolution, and that he is going to retake the country from the Rio Grande to the Nueces.

Last night they attempted to enter the town through the garrison, but did not succeed; night before last they fired upon the town, from the direction of the convent, for a short time, and then retired.

We have been thus besieged for thirty-five days, and not a man from an adjoining county has come to our relief.

We have called upon the President and our governor for aid, and we are promised regulars and rangers, but the regulars are to come from Fort Clark by land, with three batteries, a distance of six hundred miles, and the rangers are to be enlisted and equipped, and to march upward of three hundred miles before any aid can be rendered.

Where are the old Texians of Galveston, Harris, Fort Bend, Austin, Washington, Montgomery, and Grimes; and why do not some of them come out and assist in a free fight? They will find plenty of beef for themselves and grass for their horses; and they need have no fear of this affair being ended before they can arrive.

The Mexican authorities are pretending to guard the right bank of the Rio Grande for the purpose of preventing Cortinas and his men from crossing over, but I regard this as a *pretence* only, for before his massacre he and his men were allowed to return to Matamoras with their arms and horses, where they were publicly cheered and encouraged, and not a step taken towards his arrest; and they may disguise the matter as they please, but the fact is, that at the time of the massacre Cortinas was commissioned in the Mexican service, and drew rations and pay for thirty men who were with him upon his murderous trip. As it is time to mount guard, I must close.

ISRAEL B. BIGELOW.

27 d.

Astounding news from the Rio Grande.

MONDAY MORNING, November 7, 8 o'clock.

Messrs. O'Connor and Ware, two of our citizens, and members of the bar, have just arrived from the rancho of Judge Love, and, arousing us from our quiet slumbers, inform us that our city and the surrounding country is in imminent danger from the outlaw Cortinas and his bands of armed Mexicans, *peons and pelados*. They bring us

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the astounding news that the entire Mexican population, on both sides of the Rio Grande, are up in arms, advancing upon us, to murder every white inhabitant, and to reconquer our country as far as the Colorado river. They have this information upon the affidavits of Messrs. Thomas and White, two respectable citizens of Cameron county, who, with their families, had just miraculously escaped from the clutches of one of the lieutenants of Cortinas, and taken refuge at the rancho of Judge Love.

Our mails closing and departing at 6 a. m., we are compelled to condense the affidavits, but we give every important point.

William D. Thomas and Nathaniel White, upon their oaths, subscribed to and taken before John B. Davis, the county clerk of San Patricio county, on the 6th instant, in presence of R. D. Love, Joseph O'Connor, J. A. E. Randolph, and J. A. Ware, say that on Monday, the 31st day of October last, at their rancho, about five miles this side of Arroyo Colorado, one hundred miles distant from Corpus Christi, they were suddenly attacked by a force of more than one hundred men, belonging to the Cortinas band, apparently led by one Pancho Trevinio and Henry Cline. They sacked and destroyed the rancho, drove off the stock, and carried away as prisoner one Juan Villareal. The order was to murder the deponents and their families, but all succeeded in making their escape through the surrounding dense chaparral. From information, it would appear that the whole Mexican population, on both sides of the Rio Grande, is up in arms, with the avowed intention to exterminate every American in the country, and to reconquer it to the Colorado river.

Under the command of one Pedro Villareal, a company of more than one hundred men had crossed from Mexico to join Cortinas, and these, as well as the other Mexican forces, were carrying aloft the Mexican colors. Cortinas had four hundred and fifty men in camp, and as many more on scouts throughout the country, to intercept all communications with the besieged in Brownsville, where were only about fifty reliable men under arms, but all of whom were worn out with fatigue. On the day of their attack on the rancho, from 10 a. m. to sundown, affiants at intervals distinctly heard the firing of cannon in the direction of Brownsville.

WILLIAM D. THOMAS.
NATHANIEL WHITE.

Signed and sworn to in my presence this 6th day of November,
A. D. 1859.

JOHN B. DAVIS,
C. C. S., San Patricio county.

Signed in presence of—

R. D. LOVE.
JOSEPH O'CONNOR.
J. A. E. RANDOLPH.
JAMES A. WARE.

We, the undersigned citizens of Nueces and San Patricio counties, were present at the rancho of Judge R. D. Love when Mr. W. D.

Thomas, with his wife, daughters, and son, in company with Mr. Nathaniel White, came from the Rio Grande, and have heard their statements, which are set forth in their respective affidavits. We are satisfied that our frontier on the Rio Grande is in a state of war, and that Brownsville, with its American population, has either fallen into the hands of Cortinas and his men, who are supported and sustained by the Mexican population beyond the river, or is in great danger of being captured. The Mexican flag is flying from a flag-staff four miles from Brownsville.

When Brownsville falls we greatly fear the next attack will be made upon the settlements of Nueces. We deem it necessary that an effort be made by the people to rescue our countrymen and to defend our frontier from invasion. We therefore call upon the people of Victoria, Goliad, Refugio, and Karnes counties to come to the rescue of our deserted and unprotected frontiers. The women and children of our frontier are in danger of being massacred. Come to our relief; come quickly; bring your arms and ammunition; we have none on the Nueces and our frontier needs your protection.

JOSEPH O'CONNOR.

R. D. LOVE.

JAMES A. WARE.

JOHN B. DAVIS.

J. A. E. RANDOLPH.

A letter from Colonel H. Clay Davis to us, of date the 3d instant, corroborates the statement made in the foregoing affidavits of Thomas and White, so far as the number of Cortinas's band is concerned. It further states that Captains Kennedy and Nickles are dead and J. F. Georges is a prisoner; that the people of Rio Grande City were in daily expectation of another attack.

These statements from different quarters force us to conclude that an actual state of war exists on our frontier, which is entirely without protection, and its immediate defence devolves upon the citizens of the Nueces and San Antonio rivers, which are nearest to the frontier.

It is necessary that the citizens turn out to defend our common country, and do it promptly. Bring your arms and ammunition. Our rancheros keep abundance of beeves for your support.

A meeting of our citizens is called this morning at 8 o'clock to devise means for the defence of our town. Captain Tobin, with 80 men, is advancing upon Brownsville, but has to meet a force of about 700 well-armed Mexicans. It is essential to reinforce Captain Tobin. Will the citizens of Goliad, Refugio, Karnes, and Live Oak turn out and meet the appeal of those who have heard the statements of Thomas and White, who have been driven from their homes?

The following letter shows that Cortinas is carrying his lawless and high-handed insurrectionary movements all over the country. Santa Rosa is some seventy-five miles above Brownsville.

SANTA ROSA, *November 5, 1859.*

MY DEAR SIR: Times look squally on this frontier. There has been no mail from Brownsville for the last eight days, it being stopped by the robbers. What few Americans that lived on the river above Brownsville have been run off from their homes, barely escaping with their lives. I look for them here every hour, and unless the troops arrive in time to put a stop to their career, they will break up the whole country between the Rio Grande and the Nueces rivers.

William C. Thomas, one of the Americans that escaped with their families, passed here night before last. He stated that he heard cannon in the direction of Brownsville the night before he escaped, and thinks that there is no doubt that Brownsville is taken by this time.

I learned yesterday that there were some volunteers of San Patricio on their way to the scene of action; how true it is I cannot say.

I wish you would send me a Sharpe's rifle and plenty of cartridges by the earliest opportunity. We are all well.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

B.

27 f.

CORPUS CHRISTI, *November 7, 1859.*

EDS. NEWS: I have just returned from a meeting of our citizens, held to organize a military company to defend that place from the Mexicans who have taken Brownsville. A man named William Miller has just arrived from Brownsville, which he reports was attacked by Cortinas and a large body of Mexicans on last Monday morning at daylight, and was taken about ten o'clock a. m.

There were some fifty Americans defending the place, aided by one hundred and fifty Mexican troops from Matamoras, but the latter fired in the air, according to Miller, who was in the fight. Of course, fifty Americans could not alone successfully defend the open town against ten times their number. Miller says that all the Americans who escaped fled across the Rio Grande to Matamoras for protection, and Cortinas holds undisputed and sole possession of Brownsville. He has strong patrols out on all the roads leading to Brownsville, to cut off any people approaching the city. He has taken the mails for the last three trips, and so we have been left in utter ignorance of all that threatened, until now, by the chance arrival of a fugitive who had to travel along Padre island to make his escape.

We are in the greatest state of apprehension on account of the danger being so near to us. At the meeting seventy-three names were enrolled, but only forty-two had arms of any kind. There is no lack of spirit on the part of our people, but they see that they have but poor chances of defending their homes and families should Cortinas march here, unless the country at large comes to our aid.

Captain Tobin's company is about half way between this and

Brownsville, but he has only some seventy men, and stands a good chance, if left unsupported, to be cut off.

We have of late had a number of strange Mexicans showing themselves around here, armed to the teeth, and it is believed that they are of the Cortinas party.

Had we only a couple of hundred men and good arms, we could give a good account of ourselves, but even in that case we would not be strong enough to march against Cortinas, and protect the country that has settlements west of us and up the valley of the Nueces.

We want *immediate* aid in men and arms, or our fate may be very soon similar to that of Brownsville. Cortinas can reach this place easily in four days from Brownsville, and to our own people of Texas must we look for aid, as we are abandoned by the government to all intents and purposes.

Yours respectfully,

G. ROBERTSON, *P. M.*

• 27 g.

The steamer Charles Morgan brings the following startling information from the west this morning, which we hasten to lay before our readers :

CORPUS CHRISTI, *November 7, 1859.*

On the 29th of October Cortinas and his band surrounded the town of Brownsville. On the 31st Cortinas ordered the barricades to be charged ; at the same time his men made good an entrance from the yards at the back of the stores and houses. In a moment his men and ours were mixed up in a hand to hand fight, and in a moment more the barricades were forced. After five hours of hand to hand fighting we were forced to retreat, and succeeded in making our escape to the other side of the river.

Cortinas's attacking party consisted of about four hundred men, and he has in all probability two hundred men patrolling the country to prevent communication with the city. In all told we had about fifty white men under arms, and these were aided by one hundred and fifty Mexicans sent from Matamoras. Colonel Manuel Navarro, commander of this force.

I can form no idea of the number of men killed on either side. The cry of the Mexicans was death to all and no quarter ; and such, truly, is the case, as it proved by the death of every man Cortinas has taken prisoner.

On Tuesday evening Cortinas had entire possession of Brownsville.

H. A. MILLER.

Signed in presence of—

L. MEYERS.

JOHN MORRIS.

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Nueces* :

Before me, E. B. Mosely, notary public in and for said county and State, personally came and appeared H. A. Miller, who, being duly sworn according to law, declares that the foregoing affidavit is strictly true.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed
[L. s.] my seal of office the 7th day of November, 1859.

E. B. MOSELY, *N. P. N. C.*

No. 28. *The Adjutant General to the commander at Baton Rouge.*

[By telegraph.]

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, November 9, 1859.

The Secretary of War directs that you proceed forthwith with your company to Fort Brown, Texas.

The assistant quartermaster at New Orleans has been instructed to make the necessary arrangements for the transportation of your command.

S. COOPER, *Adjutant General.*

The COMMANDING OFFICER AT BATON ROUGE BARRACKS,
Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, Texas, November 12, 1859:

SPECIAL ORDERS No. 103.

I. Reliable information having been received at these headquarters to the effect that the band of marauders under one *Cortinas*, said now to number from 600 to 1,500 men, and composed of Mexicans from both sides of the Rio Grande, well supplied with the munitions of war, are committing serious murders and outrages—having probably taken the city of Brownsville, and killed many of the citizens—and that they are now assuming a formidable and threatening attitude at various points between the Nueces and Rio Grande, the following troops will immediately take up the line of march, and proceed by the most direct route to old Fort Merrill, on the Nueces, at which point they will rendezvous, viz:

One section of light battery, company "K," 1st artillery, under a subaltern; companies "A" and "I," 1st infantry; companies "C" and "D," 8th infantry; company "E," 2d cavalry; detachments of twenty men each from companies "A," "I," and "K," 2d cavalry.

The two companies of the 1st artillery now *en route* to Fort Brown, pursuant to Special Order No. 100, current series, from these headquar-

ters, will also direct their march to the place of rendezvous immediately on the receipt hereof.

The section of the light battery, company "E," 2d cavalry, and company "D," 8th infantry, will proceed by the old Eagle Pass and Corpus Christi road.

II. The chiefs of the different staff departments at these headquarters will take immediate steps to facilitate these movements, and furnish all the requisite munitions. All the available transportation at the points from which these troops are drawn will be made use of, and should there not remain on hand a sufficiency for the ordinary service of the posts it can be afterwards supplied.

The medical director will, if necessary, hire physicians so as to insure the proper medical aid.

III. Assistant Surgeon A. J. Ford will accompany the troops from Camp Verde.

IV. Major S. P. Heintzelman will take command of the entire force, and will report without delay to these headquarters for instructions.

By order of Brevet Major General D. E. Twiggs.

T. A. WASHINGTON,

1st Lieutenant 1st Infantry, Acting Assistant Adjutant General.

30. *Special Orders No. 105.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, November, 1859.

Major S. P. Heintzelman, 1st infantry, having reported agreeably to Special Orders No. 103, current series, from these headquarters, will proceed to old Fort Merrill, the rendezvous designated therein, and take command of the troops ordered to assemble at that place, and on the arrival there of what he may deem a sufficient force, he will move on to Fort Brown.

He will use his best efforts to come in collision with the Mexican, Cortinas, said now to be in force on the Arroya Colorado. Should he encounter him or any other armed party disturbing the peace of the country, they will be treated as hostile, and will be attacked and dispersed. Should persons be taken, they will be held in custody to await the action of the proper civil tribunal. These marauders will be pursued if necessary to the Rio Grande, but the United States troops will not cross the frontier to follow them unless in hot pursuit.

Major Heintzelman has full authority to act in this matter and to employ whatever means he may deem most expedient to meet the exigency of the case, to disperse the forces of Cortinas, and restore quiet to the frontier. He will employ the necessary guides and spies to advise him of the whereabouts of and secure the proper informations concerning the enemy.

He will keep these headquarters advised, from time to time, of his movements, and when the objects of the expedition have been fully accomplished, he will, on further instructions from these headquarters,

order the companies composing his command to their respective posts and stations.

By order of Brevet Major General D. E. Twiggs.

T. A. WASHINGTON,
1st Lieut. 1st Infantry, Actg. Asst. Adj. Gen.

31. *General Twiggs to Mr. Floyd.*

[Telegram.]

SAN ANTONIO, November 12,
Via NEW ORLEANS, 17.

Express from Rio Grande City just in. Brownsville burnt, one hundred Americans murdered. Cortinas on the march for the Nueces with eight hundred men. A gentleman of intelligence says there is no doubt it is the priest party of Mexico, as Cortinas has plenty of money. Seven companies of foot and two of horse ordered in the field, all under Major Heintzelman. I am not able to take the field.

D. E. TWIGGS,

Bt. Maj. Gen., Commanding Department.

SECRETARY OF WAR, Washington.

32. *General Twiggs to the Adjutant General.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, November 14, 1859.

SIR: The enclosed will show the information I have of the Rio Grande affair. In addition, a gentleman of respectability from the Rio Grande, who came express, informs me that *he had a spy* in Cortinas's camp, who said men were joining him "*daily and hourly*;" that he (Cortinas) has plenty of funds, pays his men a dollar a day, and has a good supply of provisions. It is the opinion of the best informed in that country that Cortinas is of Miramon's party, and acting under his orders. Carbajal has five hundred men opposite the town of Rio Grande City, and he is always ready to join any side.

I have not the vanity to suppose any suggestion of mine would influence the department at Washington, *but I think it my duty to say* that an officer of rank should be immediately sent to take command of this department. *I am not able to take the field.*

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS,

Bvt. Maj. Gen. U. S. A., Commanding Department.

Colonel S. COOPER,

Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.

32 a.

[Herald Extra.]

We have the following exciting news from the Rio Grande, brought to our city by H. Clay Davis, who arrived this morning, bringing us the Goliad Messenger Extra, which we give below.

General Twiggs has ordered seven companies to repair immediately to the scene of action, which, with those already on the way, will make nine.

We learn from Mr. Davis that the whole Rio Grande country is in an uproar, and that outrage and murder are the order of the day. On the night of the 5th a company of Carbajal's soldiers came over the river and took twenty-six Mexican residents of Texas, and took them into Mexico to recruit Carbajal's army; Jesus Rivas and Pedro Villiere refusing to go were killed.

[Messenger Extra.]

Urgent call for volunteers.

Reliable information has just reached us that the city of Brownsville was captured by Cortinas on the 1st instant, and nearly a hundred American citizens slain. The American families—some thirty in number—had escaped to Matamoras, and are now depending upon Mexican mercy; while the Mexican rabble are excited and crying death to the Americans through the streets. The whole Rio Grande country is swarming with the robbers or Cortinas's party; and all Americans whom they could lay hands on have been killed. Cortinas was at the Arroyo Colorado chapparal with about *six hundred* men on last Saturday, and his party was being immensely increased by Mexicans from the other side of the Rio Grande.

The boats from Edinburg to Brownsville have been taken and employed in crossing them. Cortinas had, on last Saturday, four hundred revolvers and two hundred Minie rifles, and abundant means. At the latest advices he was advancing towards the Nueces. Captain Tobin, when last heard from, was approaching the Arroyo Colorado with 106 men, and it is almost certain that he is *cut off*. The information is brought by several couriers who have arrived successively in the last few hours. Mr. Miller arrived from Brownsville; *he was in the battle*, and escaped by swimming his horse to the other side. The bearer of the express (Col. H. Clay Davis) left Rio Grande City on Monday last, and the above is a condensed statement of his report. Col. Davis is an old and well-known frontiersman, and has never brought a false alarm to camp.

We are raising a company to march immediately, and to-night we send messengers to all neighboring towns and neighborhoods, with the most urgent call for men which has been on this frontier for twenty years.

There are no troops in reach. Come as fast as you can form squads of six or more. Cortinas is within a few days' march of the Nueces,

probably with fifteen hundred men, approaching with the avowed intention of murdering and breaking up the white settlements, and exciting insurrection among the slaves. Rendezvous at San Patricio.

Pryor Lea.

A. C. Jones.

J. Martin.

H. Seeligson.

E. Suter.

J. F. McKinney.

J. S. McCampbell.

W. N. Fant.

R. W. Davis.

M. M. Kenney.

Committee appointed by a meeting of the citizens of Goliad.
NOVEMBER 10, 1859.

33. *General Twiggs to Mr. Floyd.*

[Telegram.]

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, *November 17,*
Via NEW ORLEANS, November 22.

Nothing further that is reliable from Cortinas. Governor Vidaurri, who is here, says he is no doubt backed by one of the contending parties in Mexico. All reports agree in Cortinas having from eight to fifteen hundred men, who are paid daily one dollar. There is at Brownsville and the Brazos one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars' worth of public property, including two field batteries complete.

D. E. TWIGGS.

The SECRETARY OF WAR, *Washington.*

34. *General Twiggs to Mr. Floyd.*

[Telegram.]

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, *November 18,*
Via NEW ORLEANS, November 25.

I respectfully ask to be relieved before the December rains set in. Colonel Seawell, next in rank to myself, cannot order or approve of general courts-martial.

D. E. TWIGGS.

SECRETARY OF WAR, *Washington.*

35. *General Twiggs to Mr. Floyd.*

[Telegram.]

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, *November 18,*
Via NEW ORLEANS, November 25.

I am disposed to think the Cortinas affair is greatly exaggerated.

D. E. TWIGGS.

SECRETARY OF WAR, *Washington.*

36. *Mr. Floyd to Mr. Hatch.*

[Telegram.]

WAR DEPARTMENT, *November 18, 1859.*

Intelligence from General Twiggs, dated San Antonio, 12th instant, states that Brownsville has been burnt. Is the report true? Answer immediately.

JOHN B. FLOYD,
Secretary of War.

F. H. HATCH, Esq.,
Collector of the Port of New Orleans, Louisiana.

37. *The Adjutant General to Major Clark.*

[By telegraph.]

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, November 18, 1859.

Send the following to the commanding officer of Fort Monroe, Virginia, by the boat leaving Baltimore this afternoon for Norfolk, and acknowledge by telegraph.

Commanding officer of Fort Monroe, Virginia:

Hold your entire command in readiness for field service in Texas, to move on the receipt of further instructions.

Captain Ord, 3d artillery, relieved from board to meet at Philadelphia, Monday next.

By order of the Secretary of War.

S. COOPER, *Adjutant General.*

Major M. M. CLARK,
Quartermaster U. S. Army, Baltimore, Maryland.

38. *Circular.*

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, November 19, 1859.

Barry's and Hunt's batteries, and three foot companies of the second artillery, now stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and six companies of artillery now at Fort Monroe, will this day be ordered to proceed immediately to Fort Brown, Texas, there to receive further instructions.

The Secretary of War directs that the general staff department make the necessary arrangements for this movement, as well as for

the proper supply of these troops for field service on their arrival in Texas.

S. COOPER, *Adjutant General.*

The QUARTERMASTER GENERAL.
COMMISSARY GENERAL.
COLONEL OF ORDNANCE.
SURGEON GENERAL.
PAYMASTER GENERAL.

39. *The Adjutant General to Colonel Sumner.*

[By telegraph.]

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, November 19, 1859.

The Secretary of War directs that you issue the necessary orders for the immediate movement to Fort Brown, Texas, by the river route, of Barry's and Hunt's batteries, and the three foot companies of the second artillery, now stationed at Fort Leavenworth; your arrangements for transportation to extend as far as New Orleans. If boats are available at Fort Leavenworth, they had better be employed to facilitate the movement.

Captain Dickerson, quartermaster's department, has been ordered to report to you for duty with this command.

These troops will receive further instructions on their arrival at Fort Brown.

Acknowledge by telegraph this despatch.

S. COOPER,
Adjutant General.

Colonel E. V. SUMNER, *U. S. Army,*
Commanding Dept. of the West, St. Louis, Missouri.

40. *The Adjutant General to Major Clark.*

[By telegraph.]

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, November 19, 1859.

Send the following to the commanding officer of Fort Monroe, by the boat which leaves Baltimore for Norfolk this afternoon, and acknowledge by telegraph receipt hereof:

Commanding Officer Fort Monroe, Virginia:

The Secretary of War directs that on the arrival at Old Point of the necessary transportation, which has been ordered from New York, the companies of artillery now stationed at Fort Monroe, excepting

Captains Burton and Roberts's companies, proceed to Fort Brown, Texas, there to receive further instructions. These troops are destined for field service.

Assistant Surgeon T. H. Williams to accompany the command.
By order of the Secretary of War.

S. COOPER,
Adjutant General.

Major M. M. CLARK,
Quartermaster U. S. Army, Baltimore, Maryland.

41. *The Adjutant General to Colonel Myers.*

[By telegraph.]

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, November 19, 1859.

Please send the following to Brevet Major General D. E. Twiggs, commanding department of Texas, San Antonio, Texas:

The Secretary of War directs that you order to Fort Brown, Texas, such companies of the second cavalry as can be replaced by foot troops.
By order of the Secretary of War.

S. WILLIAMS, *A. A. Gen'l.*

Lt. Col. A. C. MYERS,
Asst. Quartermaster, U. S. Army, New Orleans, La.

42. *Mr. Hatch to Mr. Floyd.*

[Telegram.]

NEW ORLEANS, *November 19, 1859.*

This report is not believed here. Further news is expected by steamer to-morrow, which I will communicate.

F. H. HATCH, *Collector.*

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,
Secretary of War.

43. *Mr. Hatch to Mr. Floyd.*

[Telegram.]

NEW ORLEANS, *November 20,*
Via WHEELING, 22, 1859.

The Arizona arrived yesterday from Point Isabel. Brownsville is safe. One hundred and twenty (120) Texan rangers arrived on the

12th. The United States troops, under Captain Pickett, on the seventeenth (17th) instant.

The dangers have been greatly exaggerated, but the country is still in an unsettled condition. Will write fully by this day's mail.

F. H. HATCH.

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD, *Secretary of War.*

44. *Mr. Hatch to Mr. Floyd.*

[Telegram.]

SAN ANTONIO, *November 21, 1859.*

The reports concerning Cortinas prove to be mostly false; the order sending the troops to Brownsville has been countermanded.

D. E. TWIGGS.

SECRETARY OF WAR, *Washington.*

45. *The Adjutant General to General Clark.*

[By telegraph.]

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, November 21, 1859.

Send the following to the commanding officer of Fort Monroe, Virginia, by the boat which leaves Baltimore for Norfolk this afternoon, and acknowledge by telegraph, receipt hereof.

Commanding Officer of Fort Monroe, Virginia:

Instructions of the 19th for movement of troops from Fort Monroe to Fort Brown, Texas, have been countermanded.

By order of the Secretary of War.

S. COOPER,
Adjutant General.

Major M. M. CLARK, *Quartermaster U. S. A.,*
Baltimore, Maryland.

46. *The Adjutant General to Colonel Myers.*

[By telegraph]

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, November 21, 1859.

Send the following to Brevet Major General D. E. Twiggs, commanding department of Texas, San Antonio, Texas:

Instructions from this office of the 19th instant respecting the second cavalry are revoked.

By order of the Secretary of War.

S. COOPER,
Adjutant General.

Lieut. Col. A. C. MYERS,
*Assistant Quartermaster U. S. Army,
New Orleans, Louisiana.*

47. *The Adjutant General to Colonel Sumner.*

[By telegraph.]

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, November 21, 1859.

Instructions of the 19th for the movement of troops from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Brown, Texas, countermanded. Recall your own orders upon the subject. Acknowledge this despatch by telegraph.

S. COOPER,
Adjutant General.

Colonel E. V. SUMNER, *United States Army,
Commanding Department of the West, St. Louis, Missouri.*

48. *Circular.*

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, November 21, 1859.

The instructions of the 19th instant for a movement of troops from Forts Monroe and Leavenworth to Fort Brown, Texas, have been countermanded.

By order of the Secretary of War.

_____,
A. A. General.

THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL.
COMMISSARY GENERAL.
SURGEON GENERAL.
COLONEL OF ORDNANCE.
PAYMASTER GENERAL.

49. *Mr. Hatch to Mr. Floyd.*

CUSTOM-HOUSE, NEW ORLEANS,
Collector's Office, November 22, 1859.

SIR: Referring to my telegraphic despatch of the 21st instant announcing the safety of Brownsville, I have the honor to transmit herewith a report, made at my request by W. J. Reyburn, appraiser general, direct from that place, to which I beg leave to refer for general information concerning the condition of things upon that frontier.

It is proper to add that the prompt actions of your department in despatching the United States troops to the protection of Brownsville has reflected honor upon the government, and satisfied public expectation as to its readiness to respond to all authenticated calls for aid.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. H. HATCH, *Collector.*

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,
Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.

49 a.

UNITED STATES APPRAISER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
New Orleans, November 21, 1859.

SIR: I have just returned from an official visit to the ports of Brazos, St. Jago and Point Isabel, where I spent three or four days; and supposing that a report of the actual condition of Brownsville and the surrounding country, as it appeared to an eyewitness whose personal and official relations would naturally be conclusive to your mind of the truthfulness and correctness of his statements, would be acceptable to you, I respectfully submit the following:

I left here on the steamship Arizona on Friday, the 11th instant, and did not reach the Brazos, on account of a most severe norther, until Monday evening, the 14th. On board the steamship was a company of the 1st United States artillery, Captain Picket commanding, with Lieutenant Sullivan and 48 men, rank and file, destined for Brownsville. On reaching Brazos we learned, by express rider, that Captain Tobin, of the Texas rangers, numbering 95 men, had arrived on Saturday night, about 12 o'clock, at Brownsville. After sufficient resting time for the recruit of men and horses, Captain Tobin had commenced scouring the chapparal, with the hopes of meeting a detachment of the outlaws under command of Cortinas, but without success up to Thursday morning, the 17th. Captain Picket's command arrived on Thursday, and as he is in receipt of no order save the telegraphic despatch which ordered him to Fort Brown, he will simply take possession of the fort, and protect the inhabitants of the town, until he receives further orders from the honorable Secretary of War.

It may be interesting to you to know the true account of the difficulty between the people of Brownsville and Cortinas, and for that purpose I will have to go back, in my relation of it, anterior to the 25th of September, the day on which the foray was made on the town, and the three American citizens, Neal, Morris, and Johnson, were murdered, and two adopted citizens, Vevean Garcia, and another whose name I have forgotten, Mexicans. The frequent escape of slaves from the American side of the Rio Grande into Mexico, and the folly of any attempt to recapture them—although you often meet your own property in Matamoras—has been one of the excitants of bad feelings between the citizens of Mexico and those on the frontier; consequently, all the household drudgery and menial services are performed by Mexican servants, and Brownsville has been the resort of some of the most worthless of the Mexican inhabitants, who, in their intercourse with Americans, have copied none of their virtues, but have contracted all their vices. Amongst the *habitués* of Brownsville was Cortinas, the reprobate son of a wealthy and respectable widow lady. His reputation was equivocal, and was classed as a half-gambler and robber. His brother, José Maria Cortinas, was a most respectable citizen of the county, and was elected, as the democratic nominee, to the office of county and city assessor. Lawless and unprincipled Americans were much in the habit of grossly maltreating the Mexicans who visited Brownsville, even to the taking of life. Neal, the first man killed, had shot a Mexican in the street of Matamoras, on account of jealousy, and by crossing the river had placed himself beyond the pale of Mexican law. About two months after the first murder, he killed another Mexican, in Brownsville, for the same cause. Morris had perpetrated many Mexican murders; and although Johnson had killed a Mexican a few months before, his murder was forced on the outlaws, who did not intend to kill him, but to obtain the keys of the prison for the purpose of liberating some of their countrymen who had been, as Cortinas said, illegally imprisoned. Johnson fell a victim to his bravery and obstinacy. When the keys were demanded by the crowd of outlaws, he refused to give them up, and sought protection in the store of Vevean Garcia, who closed his door for the protection of Johnson. In forcing the door Johnson fired, killing one Mexican and severely wounding another; his immediate death was the consequence; and the brother of the man killed, in a moment of anger, shot Garcia, as the consequence of the killing of his brother and wounding of another of their party. You will find that this is Cortinas' version of the affair, as set forth in his proclamation, which, with an extra of the Brownsville paper, you will find accompanying this report.

Cortinas had fled from the city some two months before he committed those outrages on the 25th of September. He had shot the city marshal, wounding him severely, as he alleges, for inhuman and unnecessary punishment of a drunken Mexican who had been arrested for breaking some city ordinance, and, whilst in custody of the marshal, had been wantonly beaten on the head with the butt of a heavy pistol. He shot the officer, liberated the Mexican, and having placed him on horseback behind him, defied the town, and rode off with the prisoner.

This was the first offence against the laws ; he was indicted for it, and had never been in Brownsville since this occurrence until the morning of the 25th.

In that act of outlawry, which resulted in the death of Neal, Morris, Johnson, Garcia, and a Mexican, he met and saluted several citizens on the street, rode up to the store of Samuel Belden, esq., and demanded Adolphus Glarecke, who was concealed there. Belden would not give him up, and, on account of the friendship Cortinas felt towards Belden and his partner, he used no violence in getting possession of his greatest enemy. He has invariably declared that he would never rest till he had killed Glarecke, Thyers, and one or two others whose names I forget ; and in confirmation of that pledge, he has accumulated quite a horde of desperate villains about him. Some notorious robbers belong to his party, but he rules them with a rod of iron. Some of them robbed the ranche of a Mr. Champion, and endeavored to cross the Rio Grande with their booty, which they succeeded in doing, with the exception of three, whom Cortinas caught and shot immediately. As far as I could learn from the most respectable and intelligent citizens of Brownsville, he has committed no overt act against the United States government, save the detention and opening the letter mail. Mr. Francis Campbell, a native of Louisiana, who has been favorably known to me from his childhood, was taken prisoner by Cortinas on the 25th of October, and was detained by him twelve days. I had many conversations with Mr. Campbell, and he thinks the cause of detention was, that his services were necessary to Cortinas in reading and translating the letters abstracted by Cortinas from the mail. In opening letters, Cortinas appeared anxious to open such as had the appearance of being official, and Mr Campbell believes that his only desire was to ascertain the movements of our government. Letters with money enclosed were left untouched, and, being resealed, were placed in the package with the way-bill. The mail-bags were suspended at various points, and notice given to the citizens where they could be found. His troops foraged on none but those who had rendered themselves obnoxious to his enmity. A party of his men brought into camp eighty or ninety beeves belonging to J. Brown, esq., sheriff of Cameron county. Cortinas knew to whom the cattle belonged from the brand. He killed eleven for the subsistence of his men, which, according to Mr. Campbell, numbered about two hundred or two hundred and fifty, sent the balance to a corral near Matamoras, notified Mr. Brown of what he had done, and sent him a due-bill for the eleven he had taken.

At Point Isabel the collector, Frank Latham, esq., informed me that there were \$160,000 in debenture and transportation goods in warehouse. Trains of one hundred wagons were engaged in the transportation of these goods to Brownsville. He never stopped but one wagon, opened none of the bales or boxes, but informed Mr. Campbell that if he had found any boxes containing arms for the liberalists of Mexico that he would have appropriated them. Finding none, the wagons were permitted to proceed.

Mr. Campbell was one of the party who attacked Cortinas on the 24th of October, and having a Mexican wife and children, the men

under Cortinas regarded him with more animosity than most any other person. Two or three attempts were made to murder him, but were always subdued by the violence and determination of Cortinas, who threatened to shoot the first man that raised an arm. But the pressure on Cortinas became very severe, and he was eventually obliged, after exacting a promise from Mr. Campbell that he would not return to Brownsville, to release him, which he did at midnight, by ordering a carriage from Matamoras to be on the bank of the river at 12 o'clock at night, opposite his camp. Mr. C. was crossed over and driven to Matamoras. It may be proper to mention that Mrs. Campbell, finding her husband a prisoner, sought the camp of Cortinas, and, on a personal appeal, succeeded in getting her husband off.

On Saturday, the 12th, Captain Pennington, the skipper of a down-east schooner, found that his business called him to Brownsville, and, contrary to the advice of all, started for that place. At Palo Alto he was stopped by some of the scouts of Cortinas, who took him to the general. Cortinas inquired who he was, and his business. Pennington gave him the information, and he informed Pennington that he had no cause of quarrel with any American save some at Brownsville, and, after dining, the captain was permitted to proceed.

At Brazos St. Jago there was a battery of light artillery, with ammunition, and ten men were all that could be mustered in defence of the ordnance deposited there. The headquarters of Cortinas, for a long time, were within sixteen miles of that point, yet no effort was made to attack the place. The place, however, was well prepared for an attack, so far as heavy artillery and determined men could protect it.

Mr. Latham never discontinued his visits to Point Isabel, and was never molested until the 15th, when he became apprehensive that the unlawful hanging of Cabrera by a mob at Brownsville might incite Cortinas to retaliatory action. Cabrera was a man of 65 years of age, the second in command, and the friend of Cortinas, who had been taken prisoner by the people of Brownsville, and on whose account Cortinas had besieged Brownsville. He promised that if they would release Cabrera that he would withdraw his men and leave the country. The people of Brownsville refused to release him, and ten days after the arrival of the rangers an unknown and lawless mob took him from legal custody and hung him in the market square.

Throughout this rebellion against the laws of the United States and of the State of Texas the Mexican authorities at Matamoras have apparently sympathized with the citizens of Brownsville; not only inviting the women and children of the town to remain over there, but furnished a company of their infantry to repel any attack Cortinas might make on the town; whilst it is also notorious that Cortinas, with a select party of his band, was in the habit of daily visits to Matamoras. Mr. Samuel Belden had an interview with him at the mercantile house of Hale & Co., and I was informed by an American lady, who was well acquainted with Cortinas, and who had accepted the hospitality of a Mexican family, that she saw him repeatedly, and had two or three conversations with him. This fact has increased the bad feeling existing between the Americans and their neighbors, and

there is more or less distrust felt by the people of Brownsville towards some of their own citizens, for it is well known that Cortinas gets his supplies of coffee, whiskey, sugar, lard, &c., from Brownsville or Matamoras. He informed Captain Pennington that Brownsville supplied him with those articles, and a cart arrived laden with groceries whilst he was in the camp of Cortinas.

The information which I have embodied in this report was derived from the most reliable quarters. To Mr. Scarborough, the senator elect from the counties of Cameron and Hidalgo, and to Collector Latham, am I mainly indebted for these particulars.

It is generally believed that he crossed with his band into Mexican territory on Tuesday, the 15th, for on the morning of that day he fired off the piece of artillery he captured on the 24th, as had been his habit every morning at 6 o'clock, but no gun was heard on Wednesday morning. The impression prevails that he will join General Woll, who is *en route* from San Luis Potosi to Matamoras with 5,000 men. That a junction with Woll by Cortinas is intended I have no doubt; nor do I doubt but that he left his encampment on Wednesday, when he learned of the arrival of the United States troops at Brazos.

Respectfully yours, &c.,

W. P. REYBURN,
Appraiser General.

F. A. HATCH, Esq.,
Collector of Customs, New Orleans.

49 b.

[From the Brownsville Flag—extra, Oct. 29, 1859.]

Captain Thompson's report.

BROWNSVILLE, October 25, 1859.

In accordance with my report to you on yesterday, I ordered the men under my command to take up their line of march (from the rancho of Adolph Glavecke, some four miles from this city,) for Cortinas' camp. At the time of our departure we were kindly met by D. Miguel Tigerina, with seventy of the infantry from Matamoras, with one field-piece, all under the order of Colonel Loranca, who reported to me as commander, stating that they feared the force under my command to be too weak to encounter that of Cortinas', and that they desired to assist us against the enemy. They were thankfully received, and allowed the honor of bringing on the battle.

While on our march, some two miles before reaching Cortinas' rancho, the infantry was fired upon by Cortinas' men from the chaparral. The Matamoras infantry and the men on foot from Brownsville formed and routed them; but they soon renewed the attack, and were again routed. On reaching the rancho of Cortinas', the enemy made a stand in a strongly-fortified corral. The infantry, assisted by

mounted men, put them to flight and took possession of their fortification.

I then ordered the mounted men, commanded by D. Antonio Postilla, to examine the potrero of Cortinas, and also to get possession of the boats to prevent the escape of the enemy to Mexico. Soon after they left it was discovered that the enemy had taken a stand some six hundred yards from us, inside of another potrero. After consulting my officers, I ordered the infantry to dislodge the enemy from behind the fence and then return. After a severe engagement, our cavalry not getting to their assistance, and our ammunition not having been distributed properly, our troops were compelled to retire, which they did in order until they reached our field-piece, which was accidentally thrown from the wheels to the ground.

This threw our forces in confusion, when we were compelled to abandon our cannon to the enemy, not knowing the fact that we had plenty of ammunition just arrived on the field. Our retreat was in the utmost confusion.

Our loss was one killed and several slightly wounded. The loss of the enemy, I learn from their camp, was eight killed and several wounded.

Yours, respectfully,

W. B. THOMPSON,
Commanding Brownsville Volunteers.

STEPHEN POWERS and I. G. BROWN.

49 c.

Modest letter from Cortinas.

On Wednesday a letter was brought in to our city and delivered to a merchant here, written by the hand of no Mexican or Spaniard, in wretched spelling and grammar, which, translated into tolerable English, would read as follows :

VILLANUEVA, October 26, 1859.

DEAR FRIEND : I say to you that having been informed that the town of Brownsville is fortifying itself to fight against me, I tell you that I do not wish to fight against the town because of many persons who are faultless—such as your house, that of D. Alijandro, that of D. Pablo, and other individual houses, such as that of D. Venceslaus Vega. Do me the favor to acquaint all these persons, and Mr. Powers, (our mayor,) and Mr. James Brown, (the sheriff,) that I do not wish to molest the town. I hope you may answer me, because I am about to march upon the town, since I have now got sufficient force and artillery to batter down the houses ; and not being desirous of doing so, I desire from you the three or four persons by whom I have been aggrieved ; such as Mr. Adolphe Glavecke, the squinting sheriff, (the marshal,) and some other persons who have difficulties with me.

Do me the favor, and, with you, all those persons whom I have

named, to make this letter known to them, that they may drive out those men and cite me to their field of battle. I await your answer in order to act as it suits me. No more.

Your servant, who places himself at your orders,

JUAN NEPOMUCENO CORTINAS.

49 d.

PROCLAMATION.

Juan Nepomuceno Cortinas to the inhabitants of the State of Texas, and especially to those of the city of Brownsville.

An event of grave importance, in which it has fallen to my lot to figure as the principal actor since the morning of the 28th instant, doubtless keeps you in suspense with regard to the progress of its consequences. There is no need of fear. Orderly people and honest citizens are inviolable to us in their persons and interests. Our object, as you have seen, has been to chastise the villainy of our enemies, which heretofore has gone unpunished. These have connived with each other, and form, so to speak, a perfidious inquisitorial lodge to persecute and rob us, without any cause, and for no other crime on our part than that of being of Mexican origin, considering us, doubtless, destitute of those gifts which they themselves do not possess.

To defend ourselves, and making use of the sacred right of self-preservation, we have assembled in a popular meeting with a view of discussing a means by which to put an end to our misfortunes.

Our identity of origin, our relationship, and the community of our sufferings, has been, as it appears, the cause of our embracing, directly, the proposed object which led us to enter your beautiful city, clothed with the imposing aspect of our exasperation.

The assembly organized, and headed by your humble servant, (thanks to the confidence which he inspired as one of the most aggrieved,) we have careered over the streets of the city in search of our adversaries, inasmuch as justice, being administered by their own hands, the supremacy of the law has failed to accomplish its object.

Some of them, rashly remiss in complying with our demand, have perished for having sought to carry their animosity beyond the limits allowed by their precarious position. Three of them have died—all criminal, wicked men, notorious among the people for their misdeeds. The others, still more unworthy and wretched, dragged themselves through the mire to escape our anger, and now, perhaps, with their usual bravado, pretend to be the cause of an infinity of evils, which might have been avoided but for their cowardice.

They concealed themselves, and we were loth to attack them within the dwellings of others, fearing that their cause might be confounded with that of respectable persons, as at last, to our sorrow, did happen. On the other hand, it behooves us to maintain that it was unjust to give the affair such a terrible aspect, and to represent it as of a char-

acter foreboding evil ; some having carried their blindness so far as to implore the aid of Mexico, alleging as a reason that their persons and property were exposed to vandalism. Were any outrages committed by us during the time we had possession of the city, when we had it in our power to become the arbiters of its fate? Will our enemies be so blind, base, or unthinking, as to deny the evidence of facts? Will there be *one* to say that he was molested, or that his house was robbed or burned down.

The unfortunate Viviano Garcia fell a victim to his generous behavior ; and with such a lamentable occurrence before us on our very outset, we abstained from our purpose, horrified at the thought of having to shed innocent blood without even the assurance that the vile men whom we sought would put aside their cowardice to accept our defiance.

These, as we have said, form, with a multitude of lawyers, a secret conclave, with all its ramifications, for the sole purpose of despoiling the Mexicans of their lands and usurp them afterwards. This is clearly proven by the conduct of one Adolph Glavecke, who, invested with the character of deputy sheriff, and in collusion with the said lawyers, has spread terror among the unwary, making them believe that he will hang the Mexicans and burn their ranches, &c., that by this means he might compel them to abandon the country, and thus accomplish their object. This is not a supposition—it is a reality ; and notwithstanding the want of better proof, if this threat were not publicly known, all would feel persuaded that of this, and even more, are capable such criminal men as the one last mentioned, the marshal, the jailer, Morris, Neal, &c.

The first of these, in his history and behavior, has ever been infamous and traitorous. *He is the assassin* of the ill-starred Colonel Cross, Captain Woolsey, and Antonia Mireles, murdered by him at the rancho de las Prietas, the theatre of all his assassinations. It is he who instigated some, and aiding others, has been the author of a thousand misdeeds ; and to put down the finger of scorn that ever points at him, and do away with the witnesses of his crimes, he has been foremost in persecuting us to death. The others are more or less stamped with ignominy, and we will tolerate them no longer in our midst, because they are obnoxious to tranquillity and to our own welfare.

All truce between them and us is at an end, from the fact alone of our holding upon this soil our interests and property. And how can it be otherwise, when the ills that weigh upon the unfortunate republic of Mexico have obliged us for many heart-touching causes to abandon it and our possessions in it, or else become the victims of our principles or of the indigence to which its intestine disturbances had reduced us since the treaty of Guadalupe? when, ever diligent and industrious, and desirous of enjoying the longed-for boon of liberty within the classic country of its origin, we were induced to naturalize ourselves in it and form a part of the confederacy, flattered by the bright and peaceful prospect of living therein and inculcating in the bosoms of our children a feeling of gratitude towards a country beneath whose ægis we would have wrought their felicity and contrib-

uted with our conduct to give evidence to the whole world that all the aspirations of the Mexicans are confined to one only, *that of being freemen*; and that having secured this ourselves, those of the old country, notwithstanding their misfortunes, might have nothing to regret save the loss of a section of territory, but with the sweet satisfaction that their old fellow citizens lived therein, enjoying tranquility, as if Providence had so ordained to set them an example of the advantages to be derived from public peace and quietude; when, in fine, all has been but the baseless fabric of a dream, and our hopes having been defrauded in the most cruel manner in which disappointment can strike, there can be found no other solution to our problem than to make one effort, and at one blow destroy the obstacles to our prosperity.

It is necessary. The hour has arrived. Our oppressors number but six or eight. Hospitality and other noble sentiments shield them at present from our wrath, and such, as you have seen, are inviolable to us.

Innocent persons shall not suffer—no. But, if necessary, we will lead a wandering life, awaiting our opportunity to purge society of men so base that they degrade it with their opprobrium. Our families have returned as strangers to their old country to beg for an asylum. Our lands, if they are to be sacrificed to the avaricious covetousness of our enemies, will be rather so on account of our own vicissitudes. As to land, Nature will always grant us sufficient to support our frames, and we accept the consequences that may arise. Further, *our personal enemies shall not possess our lands until they have fattened it with their own gore.*

We cherish the hope, however, that the government, for the sake of its own dignity, and in obsequiousness to justice, will accede to our demand, by prosecuting those men and bringing them to trial, or leave them to become subject to the consequences of our immutable resolve.

It remains for me to say that, separated as we are, by accident alone, from the other citizens of the city, and not having renounced our rights as North American citizens, we disapprove and energetically protest against the act of having caused a force of the national guards from Mexico to cross unto this side to ingraft themselves in a question so foreign to their country that there is no excusing such weakness on the part of those who implored their aid.

JUAN NEPOMUCENO CORTINAS.

RANCHO DEL CARMEN,

County of Cameron, September 30, 1859.

50. *General Twiggs to the Adjutant General.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,

San Antonio, November 23, 1859.

SIR: I received my leave of absence the first of this month. Believing an officer would be sent here to command the department, I

have delayed leaving *till this time*. As no intimation is given who is to relieve me, or when, I have concluded it was the intention of the department at Washington the next in rank should do so. I will leave this in a few days.

There is no yellow fever, nor has there been sufficient to stop any officer from coming to Texas *on duty*.

The Cortinas affair is over, and the troops ordered to return to their stations.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS,

Brevet Major General U. S. A., Commanding Department.

Colonel S. COOPER,

Adjutant General, Washington.

[Telegram.]

51. *General Twiggs to Mr. Floyd.*

SAN ANTONIO, November 28.

Nothing reliable of Cortinas. Report says he is fortifying a few miles above Brownsville with several hundred men. I do not believe he ever had with him fifty men. Major Heintzelman has been ordered to the Rio Grande to report the state of affairs in that frontier.

D. E. TWIGGS.

SECRETARY OF WAR, *Washington.*

52. *General Twiggs to the Adjutant General.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, November 28, 1859.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, through the quartermaster at New Orleans, of your telegraphic despatches of the 19th and 21st instant, respectively, the first giving orders to have a portion of the 2d cavalry stationed at Brownsville, and the latter revoking such orders.

I can learn nothing definite or certain of Cortinas. The last report (not reliable) says he was a few miles above Brownsville with some three hundred followers, and fortifying. I do not believe that he has had at any time exceeding fifty men. Enough has taken place with Cortinas, and in connexion with him, to justify the United States in taking possession of the country over the Rio Grande, including Chihuahua; this is the opinion of every intelligent man in this community. It is believed that all the Indian depredations recently com-

mitted in Texas are by Indians from the Mexican side. Fort Duncan and an intermediate post from Fort Brown should be occupied; two companies at each place. This would be six companies for the Rio Grande. Cavalry in *my opinion* is not required there, and they are much needed on the frontier. If three active commands of four companies each, well mounted, were kept in the field, with orders to pursue those Indians known to be hostile to Texas, it would soon be relieved from Indian depredations, and half a million of dollars saved annually.

The defensive system will not give protection to Texas. The Indians must be punished wherever they go.

Very respectfully, your obedient,

D. E. TWIGGS,

Bvt. Maj. Gen. U. S. A., Commanding Department.

Colonel S. COOPER,

Adjutant General U. S. A., Washington, D. C.

53. *Mr. Latham and others to the President.*

BROWNSVILLE, November 30, 1859.

SIR: It appearing from the public prints, and otherwise, that a great many contradictory reports have been spread as to the condition of affairs in Brownsville, some greatly diminishing in importance the danger of the town, with the design perhaps of preventing our authorities and fellow-citizens from sending help to us, while others (equally hurtful in their final effect) have as greatly exaggerated the force of the enemy and his proceedings.

In particular, it appearing that an impression has been created abroad to the effect Cortinas and his band are only citizens and residents of Texas, thus making it seem that his movement is one that alone should be noticed and suppressed by State authority, therefore the undersigned, to the end that the State and federal authorities may act understandingly in the matter, have determined to draw up the following statement, as well for publication as for forwarding to the authorities mentioned:

To commence, then, with the men composing the *band* which entered the town on the 28th of September, and first of Cortinas himself.

It is very uncertain whether he is a citizen of the State. His mother, Estifana Cortinas, claims a large tract of land in this country, which has been the subject of several suits in the United States district court for Texas, and in these suits she claims to be a citizen of Mexico, and as such sues in said court. Cortinas himself is said to be between thirty-two and thirty-five years of age. To make him a citizen (his parents being aliens) he should have resided here (and have been of age) six months before the acceptance of the constitution of Texas by the United States.

Neither he nor any of his men have ever been naturalized under the general laws of Congress on the subject. For about ten years

past he has been a fugitive from justice, on this side of the river, and has lived at least as much in Mexico as in Texas.

As near as can be ascertained, he had with him about seventy men, at this time; of these the names of forty-nine are known, and thirty-four of the latter *resided in Mexico* at the time, and crossed over for the purpose of engaging in the affairs. To this extent the names and residence of the parties composing this band are known. The residue were strangers to old citizens of the town, and it is reasonable to suppose they were new-comers from Mexico. After this affair, Cortinas, as is known, left Brownsville, retired up the country, and after a few days broke up his organization and crossed into Mexico. He went then to Matamoras himself. His presence there was well known, and he was seen by some of the undersigned walking the streets publicly, and to appearances his conduct so far appeared to be approved by the public generally of the place, and he was taken by the hand by some of the best people there. After his lieutenant, Tomas Cabrera, was taken prisoner, he reorganized on the Mexican side of the river and recrossed publicly. The nucleus then brought from Mexico we cannot ascertain with certainty, but it was sufficient to enable him to make a stand until further accessions gave him from the same source strength to repel the attack of the 24th October, when he captured the two cannon he now has.

The man Cadena, who joined him since this last organization, came directly across the river with some forty men, and remained till they were satisfied with plunder.

They have since returned to Mexico. Cortinas now has with him from about three hundred and fifty men, (though there are estimates as high as six hundred.) He has two small pieces of artillery, (those above referred to,) and is fortified about nine miles above here on the river. This has been his main stand-point, thus evidently having an eye as well to his *source of supply* as to his means of escape, should an overwhelming force appear.

His lieutenant or himself have, to this time, ranged about the country with impunity, stopping and opening the mails, making prisoners of travellers, and finally cutting off all communication with the interior, and fairly putting Brownsville in a state of siege.

His forces are still on the increase, owing to the unfortunate result of the attempt heretofore made to break him up. His success has given him *prestige* with his ignorant countrymen, and many of them begin to believe him to be the man he represents himself in his proclamations, that is, one destined to restore the country between the Nueces and the Rio Grande to the Mexicans.

Of all the men with him, it can safely be said that three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) are immediately from Mexico, or have left there within three months past.

Mr. F. M. Campbell, an old resident of this country, and well acquainted with its inhabitants, was taken prisoner by, and remained with them a considerable time. He had ample time to make observations, and he confirms this statement. His evidence is entitled to full credit.

The authorities of Matamoras and Tamaulipas are believed to be

opposed to the movement at any rate, whatever might be their sympathies. Those in authority have, in times of emergency, done what they could to protect the town. But the great mass of the people are of a mind with Cortinas.

They favor his movement by selling or giving him supplies of ammunition, and his forces have been constantly increased by additions from among them. These authorities cannot prevent those demonstrations, even if desirous.

These facts are given partly on the personal knowledge of some of the undersigned, and all of them after careful examination.

The undersigned have endeavored strictly to confine themselves to stating that which can be well authenticated, and have, they believe, rather extenuated than exaggerated the events detailed.

And they pledge themselves to the entire truth thereof, to the best of their information and belief.

F. W. LATHAM,
Collector.

ROBT. B. KINGSLEY,
Deputy Collector.

EDW'D J. DAVIS,
Judge twelfth district, State of Texas.

STEPHEN POWERS,
Chief Justice Cam. county, Texas, and Mayor of Brownsville.

The PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, D. C.

54. *Captain Ricketts to the Adjutant General.*

FORT BROWN, TEXAS, *December 1, 1859.*

SIR: I have the honor to enclose post return for the month of November. On my arrival here I found great excitement from an apprehended attack on Brownsville, which I do not believe was ever intended, and this state of things seems to be nourished.

The origin of the difficulty is owing to a falling out between parties mixed up with private affairs, and is so complicated that it is difficult to ascertain the truth, no doubt much exaggerated, and not improved by demonstrations on the part of some rangers and citizens who have effected nothing as yet.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JAMES B. RICKETTS,
Captain 1st Artillery, Commanding Post.

Colonel SAMUEL COOPER,
Adjutant General U. S. A., Washington, D. C.

55. *Major Vinton to General Twiggs.*

QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE, HEADQUARTERS,
Department of Texas, San Antonio, December 5, 1859.

GENERAL: In compliance with your order, I have the honor to report as follows: The two men sent as spies to Cortinas' camp returned to-day. They bring no additional intelligence, as to the condition of affairs near Brownsville, to that which you have doubtless read in the public prints. From their own account, they advanced towards the place occupied by Cortinas fifty yards in advance of Captain Tobin's command, and retreated with it to the point where Lieutenant Langdon held his howitzer in reserve. They state that Cortinas's position is difficult of approach on account of there being but one road leading to it, which is flanked by a dense chaparral on either side and well protected in front by his two light pieces of artillery. But such is a militia view of the matter. A small mortar or howitzer battery, well served, aided by a moderate disciplined force of infantry, would obliterate from the spot in half an hour all that remain of this mysterious body of men. That body, though its numerical strength be stated at 500 or 600, I am disposed to think has been magnified by the fears of those whose attempts to ascertain its true position and number have so signally failed.

Again: I understand that the position of Cortinas is within the convex portion of a bend of the Rio Grande, easily assailable from the Mexican side. If permission were accorded us to plant a small battery on the Mexican side for a short part of a day, the saucy band could be easily routed, and on our side of the river dispersed with small effort. It is reported that Cortinas protects his position by a light breastwork of mesquit logs, laid horizontally, and secured here and there by upright stakes, filled inside by the earth thrown out of an excavation on the outside. This, as you will readily perceive, is more formidable to the fears of the ignorant and to cowards than to experienced soldiers. It is to be hoped that some decisive measures will soon be taken to put down this absurd demonstration against the peace and laws of our country hereabouts. Cortinas is supposed to be well supplied with arms of the most effective description, as well as all the means of subsistence of his men. It is said that he requires seven beeves per diem to ration his force; that his men are well mounted on the best kind of horses, which, with the forage for them, have been obtained from the neighboring ranches; that he commands all the approaches to Brownsville and Brazos Santiago, and that his scouts are in movement 100 miles this side of those places. Lest you should not have received them, I enclose with this extras from the "Herald" and "Ledger and Texan" newspapers published at this place, together with a proclamation of Cortinas.

I have the honor to be, most respectfully, your obedient servant,
D. D. VINTON,

Major and Quartermaster.

Major General D. E. TWIGGS, U. S. A.,
Commanding Department of Texas, Indianola, Texas.

55 a.

Juan N. Cortinas.

SATURDAY, November 26, 1859.

To the Mexican inhabitants of the State of Texas:

The arch murderer and robber has been induced by some inflated coxcomb to allow his name to be put to the following collection of balderdash and impudence. We shall not inquire now who wrote it, but it certainly was no one who has the least acquaintance with American laws or character. We invite the attention of the people abroad to his pretension that the Mexicans of this region (we suppose he means from the Nueces to the Rio Grande) "claim the right to expel all Americans within the same."

He professes to be at the head of a secret society, organized for this object. He claims modestly for his co-villains all the virtues, especially those of gentleness, purity, and loveliness of disposition. This he says of himself and his followers, who, after stabbing and shooting into and beating the dead bodies of Mallett and Greer and McCoy, slain in the fight between a portion of his forces and thirty rangers at Palo Alto, on Sunday last, and after having in like cowardly manner treated his prisoner, young Fox, after he had surrendered his arms when surrounded, descended to such depth of degradation as to dismember the bodies of the slain in a manner so disgusting as to be too horrible to tell, and then, as does the wild but far more Christian Comanche, ornamented their saddle bows with the beastly trophies of their victory.

And these men are the graduates of the presidios of Mexico and the penitentiaries of Texas, he himself for years under indictment for murder, for cattle stealing, and other crimes, and his whole clan now engaged in wholesale robbery, horse stealing, and murder. A river frontier and the absence of a treaty of extradition renders it an easy thing in a country not closely settled and full of impenetrable *chaparral* for the outlaw to escape trial at law. So these people have defied justice on either side of the river, and now, banded together in an imposing army, nought but the heavy arm of the Union can put a stop to their villany. He has heavily recruited from the outlaws of Mexico despite the vigilance of the constitutional authorities, who detest his crimes and fear his complicity with the party of Miramon and Woll.

None of them have any legal title to citizenship. The United States Supreme Court, in the case of *McKinney vs. Savriego*, decided that the 8th article of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo had no reference to Texas, and this is the only one in that treaty which confers citizenship. They could not have been citizens of Texas when annexed, because they were "adhering to the common enemy," and thus excluded from citizenship by its fundamental laws. None of them have ever been formally naturalized, and so they remain without the pale of American citizenship. A very large proportion, many think a majority, are

residents of Mexico, if anywhere, having in this country neither properties nor homes, nor anything but their own crimes to entitle them to any recognition under our laws. All the complaints insinuated in this production are utterly without foundation. These men live usually by horse stealing—by industry never. They have never been robbed of any property, but many times have imposed on honest men with stolen animals. They have escaped from the conviction due to their crimes by “false witnesses,” of whom he complains as employed against him! His appeal to General Houston to sustain him in jail-breaking, in murder, in mail robbery, and waging war on the authorities of the State, is the most stupendous piece of impudence of all. Yet he has now under him quite an army, intrenched in a well-constructed fort, defended by cannon, with experienced reactionary officers to direct his military operations, while his will is obeyed by his hundreds implicitly and unreservedly. Is this so to remain? He is a foreigner, levying war against the State and Union within their borders, and flying a foreign flag above his fortress on American soil, and yet fifty men are all the soldiers that within two months have been vouchsafed by our government to put down this rebellion, or repel this invasion—call it by what name you will.

Proclamation.

COUNTY OF CAMERON,
Camp in the Rancho del Carmen, November 23, 1859.

COMPATRIOTS: A sentiment of profound indignation, the love and esteem which I profess for you, the desire which you have for that tranquillity and those guarantees which are denied you, thus violating the most sacred laws, is that which moves me to address you these words, hoping that they may prove some consolation in the midst of your adversity, which heretofore has borne the appearance of predestination.

The history of great human actions teaches us that in certain instances the principal motive which gives them impulse is the natural right to resist and conquer our enemies with a firm spirit and lively will; to persist in and to reach the consummation of this object, opening a path through the obstacles which step by step are encountered, however imposing or terrible they may be.

In the series of such actions, events present themselves which public opinion, influenced by popular sentiment, calls for deliberation upon their effects, to form an exact and just conception of the interests which they promote; and this same public opinion should be considered as the best judge, which, with coolness and impartiality, does not fail to recognize some principle as the cause for the existence of open force and immutable firmness, which impart the noble desire of coöperating with true philanthropy to remedy the state of despair of him who, in his turn, becomes the victim of ambition, satisfied at the cost of justice.

There are, doubtless, persons so overcome by strange prejudices, men without confidence or courage to face danger in an undertaking in sisterhood with the love of liberty, who, examining the merit of acts by a false light, and preferring that of the same opinion contrary to their own, prepare no other reward than that pronounced for the "bandit," for him who, with complete abnegation of self, dedicates himself to constant labor for the happiness of those who, suffering under the weight of misfortunes, eat their bread, mingled with tears, on the earth which they rated.

If, my dear compatriots, I am honored with that name, I am ready for the combat.

The Mexicans who inhabit this wide region, some because they were born therein, others because since the treaty Guadalupe Hidalgo, they have been attracted to its soil by the soft influence of wise laws and the advantages of a free government, paying little attention to the reasoning of politics, are honorably and exclusively dedicated to the exercise of industry, guided by that instinct which leads the good man to comprehend, as uncontradictory truth, that only in the reign of peace can he enjoy, without inquietude, the fruit of his labor. These, under an unjust imputation of selfishness and churlishness, which do not exist, are not devoid of those sincere and expressive evidences of such friendliness and tenderness as should gain for them that confidence with which they have inspired those who have met them in social intercourse. This genial affability seems as the foundation of that proverbial prudence which, as an oracle, is consulted in all their actions and undertakings. Their humility, simplicity, and docility, directed with dignity, it may be that with excess of goodness, can, if it be desired, lead them beyond the common class of men, but causes them to excel in an irresistible inclination towards ideas of equality, a proof of their simple manners, so well adapted to that which is styled the classic land of liberty. A man, a family, and a people, possessed of qualities so eminent, with their heart in their hand and purity on their lips, encounter every day renewed reasons to know that they are surrounded by malicious and crafty monsters, who rob them in the tranquil interior of home, or with open hatred and pursuit; it necessarily follows, however great may be their pain, if not abased by humiliation and ignominy, their groans suffocated and hushed by a pain which renders them insensible, they become resigned to suffering before an abyss of misfortunes.

Mexicans! When the State of Texas began to receive the new organization which its sovereignty required as an integrant part of the Union, flocks of vampires, in the guise of men, came and scattered themselves in the settlements, without any capital except the corrupt heart and the most perverse intentions. Some, brimful of laws, pledged to us their protection against the attacks of the rest; others assembled in shadowy councils, attempted and excited the robbery and burning of the houses of our relatives on the other side of the river Bravo; while others, to the abusing of our unlimited confidence, when we intrusted them with our titles, which secured the future of our families, refused to return them under false and frivolous pretexts; all, in short, with a smile on their faces, giving the lie to that which

their black entrails were meditating. Many of you have been robbed of your property, incarcerated, chased, murdered, and hunted like wild beasts, because your labor was fruitful, and because your industry excited the vile avarice which led them. A voice infernal said, from the bottom of their soul, "kill them; the greater will be our gain!" Ah! this does not finish the sketch of your situation. It would appear that justice had fled from this world, leaving you to the caprice of your oppressors, who become each day more furious towards you; that, through witnesses and false charges, although the grounds may be insufficient, you may be interred in the penitentiaries, if you are not previously deprived of life by some keeper who covers himself from responsibility by the pretence of your flight. There are to be found criminals covered with frightful crimes, but they appear to have impunity until opportunity furnish them a victim; to these monsters indulgence is shown, because they are not of our race, which is unworthy, as they say, to belong to the human species. But this race, which the Anglo-American, so ostentatious of its own qualities, tries so much to blacken, depreciate, and load with insults, in a spirit of blindness, which goes to the full extent of such things so common on this frontier, does not fear, placed even in the midst of its very faults, those subtle inquisitions which are so frequently made as to its manners, habits, and sentiments; nor that its deeds should be put to the test of examination in the land of reason, of justice, and of honor. This race has never humbled itself before the conqueror, though the reverse has happened, and can be established; for he is not humbled who uses among his fellow-men those courtesies which humanity prescribes; charity being the root whence springs the rule of his actions. But this race, which you see filled with gentleness and inward sweetness, gives now the cry of alarm throughout the entire extent of the land which it occupies, against all the artifice interposed by those who have become chargeable with their division and discord. This race, adorned with the most lovely disposition towards all that is good and useful in the line of progress, omits no act of diligence which might correct its many imperfections, and lift its grand edifice among the ruins of the past, respecting the ancient traditions and the maxims bequeathed by their ancestors, without being dazzled by brilliant and false appearances, nor crawling to that exaggeration of institution which, like a sublime statue, is offered for their worship and adoration.

Mexicans! Is there no remedy for you? Inviolable laws, yet useless, serve, it is true, certain judges and hypocritical authorities, cemented in evil and injustice, to do whatever suits them, and to satisfy their vile avarice at the cost of your patience and suffering; rising in their frenzy, even to the taking of life, through the treacherous hands of their bailiffs. The wicket way in which many of you have been oftentimes involved in persecution, accompanied by circumstances making it the more bitter, is now well known; these crimes being hid from society under the shadow of a horrid night, those implacable people, with the haughty spirit which suggests impunity for a life of criminality, have pronounced, doubt ye not, your sentence, which is, with accustomed insensibility, as you have seen, on the point of execution.

Mexicans! My part is taken; the voice of revelation whispers to

me that to me is entrusted the work of breaking the chains of your slavery, and that the Lord will enable me, with powerful arm, to fight against our enemies, in compliance with the requirements of that Sovereign Majesty, who, from this day forward, will hold us under His protection. On my part, I am ready to offer myself as a sacrifice for your happiness; and counting upon the means necessary for the discharge of my ministry, you may count upon my coöperation, should no cowardly attempt put an end to my days. This undertaking will be sustained on the following bases:

First. A society is organized in the State of Texas, which devotes itself sleeplessly until the work is crowned with success, to the improvement of the unhappy condition of those Mexicans resident therein; exterminating their tyrants, to which end those which compose it are ready to shed their blood and suffer the death of martyrs.

Second. As this society contains within itself the elements necessary to accomplish the great end of its labors, the veil of impenetrable secrecy covers "The Great Book" in which the articles of its constitution are written; while so delicate are the difficulties which must be overcome that no honorable man can have cause for alarm, if imperious exigencies require them to act without reserve.

Third. The Mexicans of Texas repose their lot under the good sentiments of the governor elect of the State, General Houston, and trust that upon his elevation to power he will begin with care to give us legal protection within the limits of his powers.

Mexicans! Peace be with you! Good inhabitants of the State of Texas, look on them as brothers, and keep in mind that which the Holy Spirit saith: "Thou shalt not be the friend of the passionate man; nor join thyself to the madman, lest thou learn his mode of work and scandalize thy soul."

JUAN N. CORTINAS.

55 b.

[Herald—Extra.]

Interesting from Brownsville—Cortinas in strong force—Movements of Tobin's men—Condition of affairs, &c., &c., &c.

We have been permitted to peruse letters from our fellow-citizen, S. C. Childress, to his friends in this city, dated Brownsville, 23d and 25th ultimo, from which we gather that Cortinas is still carrying on his high-handed outrages, being fortified in an immense chapparal ten miles above Brownsville, and having a very large and increasing force under his command.

In his letter of the 23d, Mr. Childress says: "We arrived in town to-day, and found every street blockaded and every man in arms. Tobin's men (thirty in number) had gone out to meet men they had heard were coming from Corpus Christi to pilot them in, and were

attacked by about one hundred and fifty men; Singleton (sheriff of Karnes county) and another man were wounded, and four killed. The Mexican rancheros told us to come one way and all would be right. Fortunately we got lost, and took the left-hand road and got in safely. We have found out since that we were directed to the place where Cortinas had his cannon posted to rake everything that came that road.

"If any of the boys come tell them to come the lowest road, as it is the only one that can be any way safe.

"Cortinas has, some say, one thousand men, others say five hundred, others less. He got fifty recruits yesterday from Matamoras, and ammunition and all kinds of war material. Even the soldiers have deserted their ranks to join him from the other side.

"Cortinas says he will take Brownsville and burn it. He attacked the town ten days ago about two o'clock at night, and had two men killed and one wounded.

"All the rancheros above here are Mexicans for seventy or eighty miles; and if any of our boys come tell them not to rely on anything they say, but force one that knows the country to pilot them, putting him on the poorest horse in the company.

"I advise you who have influence not to wait for any action of the legislature, but come at once, at every sacrifice, with sufficient force to whip and hang the traitors as high as Haman."

From his letter of the 25th we give the following: "When I wrote you last we had just arrived, with horses tired down. Tobin had taken up a position six miles from town. We went to him that night. Next morning Lieutenant Langdon took a cannon with him and four or six men to man it. Tobin next took the rangers to spy out Cortinas's position. We went into his ranch and sent out our spies. The spies taking the lead, we followed in good order in the direction of Cortinas's fortification, as we supposed. The chapparal is about twenty feet high, and as thick as can be. Our spies drove in the picket guard, and then Cortinas let his cannon loose on us loaded with grape, his balls coming over us, and his Sharp's-shooter bullets whistling like the mischief.

"Old Colonel Peter, with his twenty-eight men, formed in line on the side of the road. Tobin ordered a retreat in order, as he only wanted to find out the enemy's position. We could undoubtedly have whipped Cortinas, but would have been badly cut up."

Mr. Childress puts the force of our friends at Brownsville at two hundred men, and the two companies of artillery from Fort Clark shortly expected, when the war will be resumed in real earnest.

Elsewhere in this letter Mr. Childress says that it will take one thousand men to dislodge the traitor from the chapparal in which he has taken his position. Cortinas has broken up every white man's ranch in that country, whilst he never molests a Mexican. If he takes a Mexican prisoner he simply gives him a kick, telling him he does not wish to hurt his countrymen. Mr. Childress thinks it will cost this country many a dollar to quell this insurrection and put things in order.

55 c.

[Ledger and Texan—Extra.]

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO, *Sunday, December 4, 1859.*

We have been favored with the perusal of a letter from Mr. F. F. Fenn, dated Brownsville, November 25, 1859, to a gentleman of this city. By permission of the latter we are allowed to publish such portions of it as we may deem interesting to our readers.

The first part of the letter gives an account of the attack by Cortinas upon Brownsville on the 28th of September last, and states that the whole country has been held in subjection by him since that period. At the date of the letter there were in Brownsville Tobin's company of about eighty men, Tomlinson's company of twenty-eight men, the Victoria company of about thirty men, and the Corpus Christi company, which was to return home the next day. They had also fifty regulars, but these only defend the barracks. There had been in the city troops from Matamoras, invited there "by county officers, against the wish of nearly every American in town," but these had left. The writer says that the citizens "distrusted their fidelity, and felt relieved of danger and dishonor when they left."

The letter then proceeds:

"Cortinas's force is variously estimated at from 500 to 1,200 men. He has the sympathy of the whole Mexican race, with very rare exceptions. He makes it a war of races; he proclaims war to the knife, and no quarter to Americans. It is nowhere doubted here among the citizens or rangers that Cortinas will have 1,000 armed men in a week, if he has not got them already. Many believe he has them now. Before a skirmish which took place four weeks ago he had only a small force. He won the ground and two cannon, and with the prestige of this victory he trebled his force in three days. The other day a party of 150 met Littleton's command, (32, all told.) He gained the ground and killed four rangers, and this success gave him a great amount of influence and a great number of men. Yesterday all hands went out to attack him at his place. There was a disagreement among the officers; they returned, and he construes this into an immense victory. It makes him formidable.

"There is no doubt among the citizens or rangers that he is strong in numbers and position. His defences and ground give him quadruple advantage. No one doubts that he will stand and fight, and that he will make a strong fight. He is posted on the road between this place and Rio Grande City, about ten miles above here, near the river, and in the midst of a dense chapparal. This thicket is penetrated only by uncertain, narrow, winding paths, into which the rangers cannot go except in single file, exposed to ambush, and to be cut off by an enemy who can conceal himself in the bushes in any number, and fight his unequal fight with almost perfect safety. This thicket extends over a large extent of country, every footpath in which is known to him, and every part of which is unknown to us; so that our reconnoitre and attack are equally difficult, and when his position becomes known or

exposed he can change it without inconvenience or any loss of his strong defences. Under these circumstances a great loss of life must be expected in dislodging him. His object, and the means he has to support his men, is a mystery to all of us.

"Until recently no one here thought of this matter as being anything more than a riot in the country to be put down; but within a few days, and especially since the retreat of yesterday, it assumes larger proportions. The rangers and citizens all agree in the seriousness of this matter; that with the strength he has and is gaining—with the sympathy of his whole race—with the assistance he gains from the Mexican political parties, there is more than a frontier interest in this matter. The common remark among the intelligent men who are here from the interior is, 'This insurrection is drifting us into a war.' Indeed, events have carried us forward until what commenced in a foray of banditti is now become a war of races, and is becoming a war of nations.

"I have stated that some disagreement arose among the commanders of the rangers. This was not a quarrel, but a simple confusion arising naturally from immature organization. They are, however, now organizing anew, and we hope soon to enter upon more effective operations. Your gallant townsman, Captain Tobin, will command all the rangers and our city force, as he was to have done in the fight expected yesterday. In an attack made on a detachment of Captain Tobin's company, under command of Lieutenant Littleton, four men were killed and their bodies shamefully and brutally mangled and outraged. Their names were McKey, Fox, Greer, and Millet. Littleton was wounded. A shot passed through his wrist, not breaking any bone; another struck his pistol belt, not penetrating, but bruising him badly. He is pushing about town, and went out to the expected fight yesterday when a less gallant man would have been in bed. His imprudence only hazards his speedy recovery.

"Captain Tomlinson's company arrived yesterday morning. The prospect of a fight was too much for them, and they went up and stood in order, perfectly cool, and eager for the fray. I say this without reflecting on any other company; but their coming so late, and being your neighbors, led me to remark upon their fine conduct. Tobin's and Tomlinson's commands are all well, save those four spoken of as killed, and poor Jackson, who lost his life by a fall from a carriage three days after his arrival.

"It is said that several of Cortinas's men are killed. Four are said to have fallen in one of the night attacks made here some time ago, and in the Littleton affair thirteen killed and fifteen wounded. This is reported from Matamoras.

"The Corpus Christi route is closed. No mails can by any chance pass without being captured. Send your packages here by Indianola, and from there by steamship Arizona to Brazos Santiago.

"Respectfully yours,

"F. F. FENN."

Attached to the letter there is the following certificate:

BROWNSVILLE, *November 25, 1859.*

We, the undersigned, have read the above, and certify to the correctness of the same.

PETER TOMLINSON.
SOL. C. CHILDRESS.
JAS. W. ROGERS.

To our own citizens it is needless to say a word about the reliance to be placed upon any statement recommended by the above gentlemen. To those at a distance we may remark that the two first are known to almost every person in this community, and are most reliable and responsible. The third is not so generally known, but he also is respectable and trustworthy.

56. *General Twiggs to Mr. Floyd.*

NEW ORLEANS, *December 10, 1859.*

I met at Indianola Captain Hanby, of the revenue cutter service, just from Brownsville. Cortinas and the San Antonio volunteers have had a fight. Four of the volunteers killed. Cortinas has two hundred and fifty men from Mexico, and is in a stockade nine miles above Brownsville. Cavalahae, at Matamoras with three hundred and fifty men, professes to be of the liberal party.

D. E. TWIGGS.

The SECRETARY OF WAR, *Washington.*

57. *Lieutenant Washington to the Adjutant General.*

[Via New Orleans, December 22, 1859. Received in Washington December 22, 1859, at 10.30 p. m.]

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, *December 16, 1859.*

Report received from Major Heintzelman, at Fort Brown, dated December 7. Cortinas some ten miles above that place, with about three hundred and fifty men. Majority well armed, and about one hundred cavalry and two pieces of artillery. His position fortified. The force under Major Heintzelman's command is one hundred and sixty-five men, to be reinforced with companies C and F, second cavalry; a section of the battery of company K, first artillery; companies A and J, first infantry, and C, D, and F, eighth infantry. Quiet cannot be restored, it is believed, without a large force on the Rio

Grande. Cortinas, it seems, has the sympathy of the Mexicans, and the government has not the disposition, if it has the power, to control him.

T. A. WASHINGTON,
First Lieutenant of First Infantry, A. A. A. G.

The ADJUTANT GENERAL
United States Army.

58. *Major Heintzelman to General Twiggs.*

HEADQUARTERS BROWNSVILLE EXPEDITION,
Fort Brown, Texas, December 16, 1859.

SIR: I have the honor to report that at 2 a. m. on the 14th I left this post with Captain Stoneman's company E, second cavalry, C, M, and L companies, 1st artillery, with two 24-pounder howitzers, in all about 150 men. I had also with me Captain Tobin's, Hampton's, and Tomlinson's companies of rangers, about 125 men more.

About eight miles above we reached the first intrenchments, and found them deserted. We continued our march two and a half miles further, when in a narrow road lined with a thick chapparal of stony trees we saw some persons waving a flag. In a moment a 4-pounder was fired. We unlimbered our guns and returned the fire. Their gun was withdrawn, and, by sending up some of the rangers and Lieutenant Ramsey with L company, 2d artillery, they soon drove the enemy.

Close by was Vicente Guenra's rancho of La Ebronal, which showed having been long occupied as their principal camp.

Here some horsemen fled across the river into Mexico. The others fled up the road, leaving some old arms and provisions.

The pursuit was continued some two miles further, to a little beyond Jesus Leon's rancho, where another stand was made for a moment.

We had one of the rangers wounded mortally, (since dead,) two of the artillery slightly. We found six dead bodies on the ground.

A deserter who arrived at Matamoras reports the enemy's force engaged at 100 men, which agrees with our previous accounts, though from the trifling resistance made I would make it much less. The chapparal was so dense that I could engage a very small portion of my command at any time. We went some two miles further and encamped. It rained all the afternoon and night, and was raining in the morning when we left. I did not consider it necessary to go any further, as I knew of no force above, and Cortinas being out towards the Arroyo Colorado. I thought he might have returned to the river. We reached here at 2 p. m. yesterday.

All the officers and men behaved with much coolness, and Lieutenant Sullivan, 1st artillery, conspicuously so in the management of his guns. The ammunition he had was old, and not very good.

I am much indebted to Judge Davis for valuable information and assistance. He accompanied me as a volunteer.

So soon as I can learn the position of any hostile force I will go out again.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
S. P. HEINTZELMAN,
Major 1st Infantry, Commanding.

Lieutenant T. A. WASHINGTON,
Acting Adj't Gen. U. S. A., San Antonio, Texas.

P. S.—Whilst halting (at 1 p. m.) to refresh the men and horses at Jesus Leon's rancho, Major Ford, with 50 men, joined us. He heard the firing in the morning whilst crossing the plains, and rode to Brownsville and up the river, near forty miles, to join us.

S. P. H.

P. S.—I have just learned that Wodorio Zamora, who commanded the force we engaged, deserted his men, and is now a prisoner in Matamoras. He had over 100 men under his command.

S. P. H.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, December 16, 1859.

SPECIAL ORDERS No. 113.

I. On the receipt hereof the following troops will forthwith take up the line of march for Brownsville:

Companies "C" and "F," 2d cavalry; one section of light battery; company "K," 1st artillery, under a subaltern; companies "A" and "J," 1st infantry, and companies "C," "D," and "F," 8th infantry.

All officers on detached service at the time of the marching of the companies mentioned in this order will, on their return to their stations, follow and join their respective companies. The detachment of Captain Stoneman's company, reported at Camp Hudson, will also join at Fort Brown.

The commander of company "G," 2d cavalry, will proceed and occupy Fort Inge. He will send a detachment of two non-commissioned officers and eighteen privates to occupy the camp on the Frio, and also a sufficient guard to protect the public property at the Pendencia until it can be removed to Fort Inge.

It is expected that the troops detailed will march forthwith on the receipt hereof; and, to insure this, the chief quartermaster of this department will at once furnish the necessary transportation, and also remove any public property it may be necessary to leave behind.

The other chiefs of the staff at these headquarters will take steps to have furnished these troops the necessary supplies from their respective departments.

The section of the light battery, and companies "C," "D," and "F," 8th infantry, and company "C," 2d cavalry, will rendezvous at Laredo, from which point they will proceed in company as soon as

the whole of them shall have assembled there. The other companies will proceed by way of San Antonio; the commanders thereof will, on their successive arrivals, report to the department commander.

Company "J," 1st infantry, and the detachment of company "D," 8th infantry, will await the arrival here of company "A," 1st infantry, when they will proceed in company by the most direct route.

Assistant Surgeon Richard Potts, medical department, will accompany this command, for which purpose he will report for duty to Captain John H. King, 1st infantry, the officer in command.

These troops will be under the command of Major S. P. Heintzelman, 1st infantry, and will receive orders from him while *en route* to Fort Brown.

II. On the departure of company "A," 1st infantry, from Camp Verde, the station will be occupied by company "J," 2d cavalry.

By order of Lieut. Col. Seawell.

T. A. WASHINGTON,
1st Lieut. 1st Infantry, Actg. Asst. Adjt. General.

60. *Major Heintzelman to the Adjutant General.*

HEADQUARTERS BROWNSVILLE EXPEDITION,
Fort Brown, Texas, December 18, 1859.

SIR: I have the honor to report that I left here on the morning of the 14th, on an expedition against Cortinas's bands, said to be obstructing the road some eight or ten miles above this on the Rio Grande.

About eight or nine miles from here we came on a breastwork, with two embrasures, constructed across the road. This we found deserted.

About two miles further, in a narrow road, enclosed by a very dense chapparal, we were fired upon from a 4-pounder planted in the road. I had the two 24-pounder howitzers we took with us unlimbered, and returned the fire. They soon withdrew their gun and were pursued, but in no place made over a momentary stand. They were followed a couple of miles or more, when some horsemen fled across the river, and the foot with the gun out towards the plains.

As the men and horses had been on foot over twelve hours, I here halted to refresh the men. A rain now set in, so I went about two miles further to grass and encamped. The next morning the roads were so difficult, and hearing of no force above us, I returned to town. Cortinas was out on the plains with part of his forces. As we had routed his camps, I hoped we might meet him on our return, but we got back the second day without seeing any one.

The rangers had one man mortally wounded, (since dead,) and the artillery two men slightly wounded. We found six dead bodies on the ground.

I have three parties out scouring the country towards Point Isabel and on the road towards the Nueces.

It is now reported that Cortinas is twenty-five miles above, on the Rio Grande, with his two guns and the most of his force. Should this prove true, I will pursue him.

I enclose a field return of the troops I had with me. From the nature of the country but a small portion was engaged. It is supposed that there were a little over 100 men opposed to us.

I also enclose a "report of the grand jury on the disturbances of the country."

From all the information I am able to collect, there is some sympathy for this man Cortinas amongst the lowest classes of the American population, but none whatever amongst the better informed.

As to the authorities, both civil and military, they have taken every precautionary measure in their power to prevent all evil disposed persons on the other side of the Rio Grande from joining him.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. P. HEINTZELMAN,

Major 1st Infantry, Commanding.

Col. S. COOPER,

Adjutant General U. S. Army, Washington.

Field return of the troops of the Brownsville expedition, commanded by Major S. P. Heintzelman, 1st infantry.

OFFICERS PRESENT.—1. Major S. P. Heintzelman, 1st infantry. 2. Captain George Stoneman, 2d cavalry. 3. First Lieutenant William R. Boggs, ordnance department. 4. Second Lieutenant Douglas Ramsay, 1st artillery. 5. Second Lieutenant William M. Graham, 1st artillery. 6. Second Lieutenant Charles W. Thomas, 1st infantry. 7. Second Lieutenant Thomas C. Sullivan, 1st artillery.

Regiment.	Companies.	Commissioned officers.					Enlisted men.					Aggregate.	Remarks.
		Major.	Captain.	First lieutenant.	Second lieutenants.	Total.	Sergeants.	Corporals.	Musicians.	Privates.	Total.		
Second cavalry	E	----	1	----	----	1	3	4	2	35	44	45	Sergeant Thomas Conroy, of company "L," and Private Joseph Art, of company "C," 1st artillery, slightly wounded.
First artillery	C	----	----	----	1	1	4	3	2	36	45	46	
Do.....	L	----	----	----	1	1	2	2	1	23	28	29	
Do.....	M	----	----	----	1	1	3	2	2	29	36	37	
First infantry		1	----	----	1	2	----	----	----	----	----	2	In addition, we had of the Texas Rangers— Captain Tobin's company 65 men. Captain Tomlinson's company .. 35 men. Captain Hampton's company... 20 men.
Do.....	A	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	1	1	1	
Do.....	J	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	4	4	4	
Ordnance department		----	----	1	----	1	----	----	----	----	----	1	
Total.....		1	1	1	4	7	12	11	7	128	158	165	120 men.

LA EBONAL STATION, 13 miles from Fort Brown, December 14, 1859.

S. P. HEINTZELMAN, Major 1st Infantry, Commanding.

Report of the grand jury on the disturbances of the country.

A. B. BACON, *District Attorney.*

At a district court for the county of Cameron, in the twelfth judicial district of the State of Texas, beginning the second Monday in November, A. D. 1859.

In the name and by the authority of the State of Texas, the grand jurors of the said State, then and there elected, tried, impanelled, sworn, and charged to inquire in and for the body of the county of Cameron aforesaid, upon their oath present, that the investigations before them during the present term of this court have resulted in eliciting certain facts, connected with the ruinous occurrences within the past few months, which they deem it their duty to present to the district court in the present form,

They find that on the 13th day of July, 1859, one Juan Nepomuceno Cortinas rescued a prisoner from the marshal of the city of Brownsville, shooting at the latter and wounding him dangerously, carried off the prisoner, and upon pursuit being threatened and attempted, crossed the Rio Grande into Mexico, where he represented himself to be recruiting soldiers for the Mexican army, under a captain's commission, whether correctly or not is to these jurors unknown; that afterwards, at the dawn of day on the 28th of September, 1859, while the citizens of Brownsville, wholly unprepared for an assault, unarmed, and defenceless, were just rousing from their slumbers, having recrossed the Rio Grande with many residents in and citizens of Mexico, and having united with him some citizens of Mexico, residents upon this side of that river, he made a descent upon the city of Brownsville with about fifty or sixty armed men, taking it by surprise, broke open the jail, released and united with him the murderers and thieves found therein, killed the jailer and four other persons, sought out others to kill them also, prevented the citizens from assembling for mutual counsel or protection, procured arms by force from the stores, armed as many of the Mexican rabble as he could find arms to equip withal, and threatened with death all Americans, especially menacing such as showed any intent to make resistance. That from the fact that Cortinas and all those with him were Mexicans by birth—most of them also by residence—and as these jurors are convinced, all, without exception, by their proper relations as citizens, from the further fact that said Cortinas had been for nearly three months a fugitive from the pursuit of justice residing in Mexico, but more especially from the cries of "viva la Republica Mexicana," and "viva Mexico," heard by divers of our citizens in different parts of the city from his sentinels and patrols, and still more plainly from the efforts of his party, unavailing for the want of proper tackle, to raise the flag of Mexico upon the flag-staff in the centre of the parade ground in the garrison enclosure of Fort Brown, which had been abandoned by the United States troops, (of all which facts these jurors are abundantly satisfied,) they do conclude, without

hesitation, that the entry upon the city of Brownsville, on the 28th of September, 1859, was an invasion of American territory by armed Mexicans under the Mexican flag, with hostile intentions against the constituted authorities of our State and country. But these jurors, in view of the activity and zeal with which the authorities of the State of Tamaulipas, and especially the city of Matamoras, both civil and military, attempted to rescue the city of Brownsville from the dangers surrounding it, are unwilling to believe that they either countenanced or aided the piratical enterprise.

And the jurors aforesaid further find that said Cortinas having subsequently on the same day left Brownsville with greatly augmented force, and returned to the rancho of his mother, nine miles above Brownsville, there remained, defying pursuit and menacing the city with destruction, unless he should be permitted to trample upon the law and wreak his vengeance upon those whom he gratuitously picked out among American officers and citizens for destruction, until the 4th of October 1859, when he broke up his camp and crossed the Rio Grande, went to Matamoras, in the republic of Mexico, and there remained with his principal men, at large and unmolested, until about the 15th of October, 1859, when, at the head of forty armed men, he reinvaded the territory of the United States, from a point nine miles above the city of Matamoras; that since then he has proceeded to the complete subjugation of all country around him, driving off and attempting to kill all the inhabitants not Mexicans, pillaging their houses and taking possession of their herds of horses and cattle, and that he has assembled and enrolled a very large force, whose least estimated number in his forts alone is three hundred men, while some well entitled to credence declare that he has under his orders not less than a thousand men; that owing to the very extensive ramifications of his influence and power, the secrecy he is able to command and enforce, and the general sympathy of the Mexicans of the inferior classes with him, there is little reason to doubt but that he can unite most of the latter under him, while his uninterrupted success will embolden the timid hitherto silent to take open part with him. *He has with him none but Mexicans*, and knows well the few who sympathize with Americans. It is therefore impossible for us to obtain definite information as to the plans and strength of Cortinas and his banditti. Of his plans, however, much may be gleaned from the following considerations: Immediately after his first attack on the city of Brownsville a proclamation was published, bearing his name and furnished under his authority, in which he claimed private revenge to be his sole object, not more than six or eight being the number of those he desired to kill made an attempt to shield Mexico from bearing the charge of his invasion of American territory by reason of the immigration of himself and some of his fellows since the celebration of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, though admitting that their families had returned from the former country, and making an especial charge that he and the members of his band had been despoiled of lands and other properties, which charge these jurors have every reason to believe is without foundation. But were it all true, and if his object was in fact the taking the lives of six or eight men, he could at

any time have accomplished this design without assembling a large force, menacing a city, taking it by surprise, breaking open the jail, releasing prisoners, robbing the mails, the ranchos, and travellers, or possessing himself of all the surrounding country, to the exclusion of all Americans.

Since the issuance of the first he has caused another "proclamation" to be issued, of a date as late as the 23d of November, 1859, in which he boldly appeals only to the Mexican inhabitants of the State of Texas, making no claim to citizenship for himself or for others, declares himself ordained of Heaven to the "exterminating their tyrants," meaning evidently the American authorities of this and the other counties in this portion of Texas, and the citizens who uphold them.

On the 14th of the month of November, 1859, the chief justice of Cameron county issued a notice calling upon all well affected persons of Mexican origin residing in the counties of Cameron and Hidalgo to come without delay with their arms to manifest their loyalty and assist in restoring order; but so few of the very large Mexican population within these counties have responded to the call as to leave no doubt but that the sympathies, if not the arms, of the greater part of them are with the marauders.

Yet the testimony before this grand jury abundantly proves that three-fourths of the men in the camp of Cortinas have hitherto altogether resided in Mexico, and that lately fifty men, in one body, under an officer coming from the neighborhood of Monterey, in the interior of Mexico, and not long ago another body of from thirty to sixty from the city of Victoria, the capital of the adjoining State of Tamaulipas, Mexico, crossed the river and united themselves with his other forces; that he has had his men under regular military drill, conducted by officers who have acquired their knowledge in the armies of Mexico, and that he hoists above his camp and carries with him upon his various expeditions the flag of the republic of Mexico.

From these facts fully ascertained, these jurors can derive no other conclusion but that the most of the Mexican inhabitants within the State of Texas and near the Rio Grande are united with those upon the other side of that river in a secret body, as it should be observed Cortinas in his last proclamation avers the former to be, with the intent to expel all Americans from the territory near the Rio Grande, and render it for the future uninhabitable by them; and that for this purpose they are in secret combination with some one of the parties now contending for the mastery in the republic of Mexico, and are by this means furnished with arms and other supplies, whether with other ulterior designs it is impossible now to discover.

And the jurors aforesaid further find, that from about the 25th of October up to about the present time, the said Cortinas has had all the country between the gulf and the county of Star, and within 60 miles of the Rio Grande, so completely under his control, excepting only the city of Brownsville, Point Isabel, and the Brazos St. Jago, that all communication with the interior of Texas, except by large bodies of armed men, has been cut off; that no mails have been permitted to pass, but when making the attempt the mail riders have

been made prisoners and their horses taken from them ; that nearly all the horses and the better cattle in the country have been driven off to his camp ; and that he has possessed himself of all the arms and ammunition of the people in the country, so far as heard from. They also have good reason to believe that many Americans coming out to the Rio Grande to buy horses and mules have been taken by him and killed, especially one McFadden, formerly a mail contractor here, and a companion, who are known to have passed the Arroyo Colorado on their way to Brownsville about a month ago, but have not since been heard from, as well as others, whom long-continued rumor declares to have been the victims of robbery and murder.

Whether it be that fear or sympathy with the marauders prevents them from appearing; the Mexican inhabitants of the country fail generally to come in, and when here seem reluctant to give information as to the very numerous robberies as well as murders which have been committed, while it is absolutely impracticable for the sheriff and his deputies to proceed to the country and bring in reluctant witnesses, so that the grand jury have found it impossible to present more than a few of the more prominent offences, and in indictments against a small portion of the offenders ; but they trust that during the six months which will intervene between their discharge and the impanelling of another grand jury, such other and more definite information will be obtained as will identify and establish the guilt of all who have been concerned in these atrocious outrages ; and they cherish, also, the hope that vigorous measures will be taken by the military forces which have now arrived, such as will not only break up the very formidable organization now triumphant over the laws of the country, but will seek out and capture all who either by their aid or counsel have assisted in the outrages which have been committed.

And the said grand jurors here reiterate their opinion that none of the marauders are American citizens, nor as citizens of the State of Texas liable, under article 232 of the criminal code, to be indicted for treason, because they were all, at the time of the annexation of Texas, citizens of the republic of Mexico, enrolled in her national guard or militia, obeying her civil rulers, responding to the orders of her military chieftains, acknowledging their allegiance to her, the open enemies of Texas, and to all intents and purposes aliens to Texas and the United States ; that they so held themselves out, and continued to be the alien enemies of Texas and the United States, until after the war which closed with the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ; that when the latter went into effect it is believed that not one of them was established on this side of the Rio Grande, but that if they were, the eighth article of that treaty, which alone provides for American citizenship, has been decided by the Supreme Court of the United States not to apply to the territory comprehended in the State of Texas ; and as the records of the courts fail to show that they have ever taken any steps towards naturalization, they are citizens of Mexico, and not of Texas or the United States.

The evils which surround us are beyond the reach of our courts, or even of our State, to fully remedy them. When the bands of Cortinas are defeated, those who survive will cross our river boundary,

and the writs of our courts cannot reach them there, but they will there be able to plot the renewal of their past conduct.

We can only hope that the authorities of our State will use their influence with those of the United States for the procurement by treaty, or otherwise, of further pledges of security from those who may control the republic of Mexico, so that hereafter our soil may not feel the tread of the foot of the invader, nor the blood of our sons and brethren be shed by his hand.

Sam. A. Belden, *Foreman.*

E. D. Smith.

Victor Hasslauer.

A. Seuzeneau.

L. Rosenbaum.

L. Weilman.

Gustavus Mahler.

M. J. Alexander.

John Martin.

C. Henkel.

H. O'Connor.

J. Beauchery.

Francisco Yturria.

Jeremiah Galvan.

M. Kenedy.

Josiah Morehead.

61. *Major Heintzelman to General Twiggs.*

HEADQUARTERS BROWNSVILLE EXPEDITION,
Fort Brown, Texas, December 19, 1859.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose herewith a field return of the troops under my command, engaged on the 14th with one of Cortinas's bands, at La Ebonal.

The information I received of the capture of Zamore, was not true. It was another man. I sent three scouts out to scour the country from here to Point Isabel, and towards the Arroyo Colorado. They report no signs of any of Cortinas's people. He is no doubt with his whole force up the Rio Grande, threatening to burn all the towns above.

I leave immediately with the whole force in pursuit.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. P. HEINTZELMAN,

Major 1st Infantry, Commanding.

Lieutenant T. A. WASHINGTON,

A. A. Adj't. Gen'l. U. S. A., San Antonio.

62. *Major Heintzelman to General Twiggs.*

HEADQUARTERS BROWNSVILLE EXPEDITION,
December 27, 1859.

SIR: I have the honor to report the entire success of our expedition against Cortinas and his bands.

I left Fort Brown on the 2d instant, with 150 regulars and 198 rangers. This morning at daylight we attacked his whole force, between 500 and 600 men, just above Rio Grande City. Major Ford,

led the advance, and after a pursuit of ten miles dispersed his whole force, capturing both his guns, ammunition wagon, and baggage.

Cortinas, after losing his guns, made his escape with 20 men across the river by swimming their horses. He made his appearance again opposite Roma, with 40 men, threatening to burn the town. I have sent Captain Stoneman's company for its protection.

The rangers had 14 men wounded. We killed from 50 to 60 of the enemy.

I will direct company C, 1st artillery, to occupy Ringgold barracks for the present. It will be necessary for the security of this frontier to immediately reoccupy all the old posts on the river, from Fort Duncan down. The companies with me are small and should be filled up immediately.

It is difficult to arrive at the objects of this man Cortinas. The most probable account is that he intended to lay waste the frontier still further up, and then to join the centralists.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
T. P. HEINTZELMAN,

Major 1st Infantry, Commanding Expedition.

Colonel S. COOPER,

Adjutant General U. S. A., Washington, D. C.

63. *Major Heintzelman to the Adjutant General.*

HEADQUARTERS BROWNSVILLE EXPEDITION,
Ringgold Barracks, Texas, December 27, 1859.

SIR: I have the honor to report the entire success of our expedition against Cortinas and his marauding bands.

I left Fort Brown on the 21st with Captain Stoneman's company E, 2d cavalry, C, M, and L companies, 1st artillery, in all 150 men. Also Major Ford's, Captains Herron's, Tobin's, Tomlinson's, and Hampton's companies of rangers, 198 men.

As we advanced they retreated up the river. Yesterday we got reliable information of their being in Rio Grande City. At daylight we got in sight of the town. Major Ford and Captain Herrons, half an hour before, were sent with 80 men to try and cut off his retreat up the river; Captain Tobin, with the rest of the rangers, was sent to cover the ground to our right, whilst the regular troops advanced upon the town, up the road.

At 10 p. m. the night before he had withdrawn his forces outside the town, leaving a small picket at the corner of Ringgold barracks.

Major Ford was unable to get beyond him. He at once commenced the attack. He took both his guns, but being attacked by his whole force on his right flank and rear, they were carried off. Other troops coming up, the enemy was driven from every position he took for ten miles, when he dispersed. Major Ford led the advance, and took both his guns, ammunition wagons, and baggage. He lost everything.

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Captain Stoneman dismounted his company, and drove a party across the river, killing six. Cortinas, with some twenty men, after the loss of his guns, made his escape across the river by swimming. Major Ford, with a few men, continued on to Roma, and opposite that place found Cortinas, with some forty men, threatening to recross and burn the town. I have sent Captain Stoneman with his company to protect it. The whole frontier is laid waste.

In Rio Grande City Cortinas plundered the stores and murdered several Americans.

We had fourteen rangers wounded. We killed some sixty of his men.

Persons who counted his men in town yesterday say that he had with him over 550 men. He retreated so rapidly that at no time was more than a small portion of the command engaged.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. P. HEINTZELMAN,

Major 1st Infantry, Commanding Expedition.

64. *Special Orders No. 122.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, December 28, 1859.

I. The section of light battery, company "K," 1st artillery, company "A," 1st infantry, and companies "C," "D," and "F," 8th infantry, are relieved from the operation of Special Orders No. 113, current series.

The section of artillery and company "A," 1st infantry, will return immediately to their respective posts.

Companies "C," "D," and "F," 8th infantry, will proceed to Laredo, or some point near there, and form a camp. The commanding officer of this camp will co-operate with Major Heintzelman, 1st infantry, should the latter officer require him to do so.

The detachments of companies "D" and "F," 8th infantry, attached to company "A," 1st infantry, will report for duty to the commanding officer of San Antonio barracks.

II. The quartermaster will employ an expressman to carry orders to Laredo, and direct him to report to the assistant adjutant general as soon as possible.

By order of Lieutenant Colonel Seawell.

JOHN WITHERS,
Assistant Adjutant General.

65. *Colonel Seawell to the Adjutant General.*

[Telegram—San Antonio, January 5, 1860. Received Washington, January 13, 4 o'clock 15 minutes p. m.]

On the 26th instant, Major Heintzelman with one hundred and fifty regulars and one hundred and ninety-eight volunteers, overtook Cortinas and his command, reported to number five hundred men, at Rio Grande City, routed him completely, killing over sixty, dispersing the rest, and capturing his two guns, ammunition, baggage, and everything. Cortinas has plundered the stores in Rio Grande City, murdered several American citizens, and laid waste the frontier. He has escaped into Mexico, and is threatening Roma. Fourteen volunteers wounded.

W. SEAWELL.

The ADJUTANT GENERAL U. S. A.

66. *Colonel Seawell to the Adjutant General.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, January 7, 1860.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report that since the transmission of the report of Major S. P. Heintzelman of his engagement on the 27th of December, 1859, with the forces under Cortinas, I have received another communication from Major Heintzelman, dated the 30th of December, but giving no more definite intelligence as to the whereabouts of Cortinas. I have written to Major Heintzelman, directing him to report fully as to the extent of the damage done by Cortinas and his command, the ranchos and other property that has been destroyed, the names of the citizens killed, and all other information he may be able to obtain, and which may tend to a complete understanding of the recent disturbances on the Rio Grande. This report will be forwarded to your office as soon as it may be received.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. SEAWELL,
Lieutenant Colonel 8th Infantry, Commanding Department.
Colonel S. COOPER, Adjutant General, U. S. Army,
Washington City, D. C.

67. *Mr. Hart to the President.*

EL PASO, TEXAS, January 21, 1860.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the enclosed three letters which I this day received from the city of Chihuahua, by express, in 48 hours. By mail of to-morrow I will forward copies to Colonel Fauntleroy,

commanding this department, asking that orders may be sent to the officer commanding Fort Bliss (near here) to interfere, if necessary, to protect persons and property of American citizens in the Mexican towns on the banks of the Rio Grande near here.

The prefect, Señor Vilarde, the chief authority of these towns, called on me to-day, he having received similar intelligence from Chihuahua, and urged me to use my influence with the civil and military authorities on our side of the river to aid him (the prefect) in protecting the persons and property of American citizens within his jurisdiction, which he said he could not duly protect without military aid from this side of the river, if the anticipated revolution takes place at the city of Chihuahua, of which there is little doubt. I also hand herewith a copy of a letter I addressed to Governor Floyd, Secretary of War, on the 7th of February last, touching our relations with Mexico. What I then apprehended seems now about to take place. I have hopes that Colonel Fauntleroy will not lose a moment in directing the United States troops to occupy El Paso to protect American citizens, if the United States consul and Mexican prefect deem such movement necessary. As to the defence and rescue of our fellow-citizens in the interior of Chihuahua, I am free to say that Congress has no time to lose in carrying out your recommendations. Even now, as I write this, their action may be too late to save lives and property of American citizens in Chihuahua. The letters I enclose to your excellency, written at Chihuahua and Panal, 175 miles south of the capital of that State, speak for themselves. Mr. Macmanns, our consul, is a gentleman of high character for honor and probity. Mr. Potts is a distinguished English gentleman of wealth and influence, a twenty years' resident of Chihuahua, and assayer at the mint. Messrs. Hicks and Macmanns, of Panal, are wealthy and influential American merchants, well known everywhere for their prudence and discretion. Neither of these gentlemen, whose letters I enclose, are given to exaggeration, and their statements are entitled to full credit. I enclose a certified copy of an order from the acting governor of Chihuahua to the Mexican prefect above alluded to, calling for men and arms to rescue the city of Chihuahua. But the prefect assured me to-day that he could send the governor no assistance; that, to the contrary, he had to look to the American side of the Rio Grande for the means of preserving peace for the Americans within his own jurisdiction.

The facts set forth in my letter to Governor Floyd of 7th February last, as to myself and others, still hold good. No order, so I am informed, has been given to commanding officers here to interfere to protect the persons and property of American citizens occupying towns on the Mexican side of the river, within sight and hail of the flag-staff of Fort Bliss. Under these circumstances, with the Apaches on the one hand, and Mexican revolution and disorder threatening to kill and rob us on the other, it is but a small boon we ask that the United States troops be ordered to protect us alike on both banks of the Rio Grande, as the Mexican authorities, granting they may have the will, are without the power and means to give us protection.

I send this communication through my friend, the Hon. John S.

Phelps, of Missouri, as he can give you much local information, having been made familiar, during a visit to me here last summer, with our situation and circumstances, and can readily set forth to your excellency what may be required to tend to our quiet and prosperity on this distant and dangerous frontier. At the same time I communicate with our honorable United States senators for this State, Judge Hemphill and Colonel Wigfall, requesting them to confer with you on the subjects of which this letter treats.

I remain your excellency's most obedient servant,

S. HART.

His excellency JAMES BUCHANAN,
President of the United States, Washington, D. C.

P. S.—You will note by the Chihuahua United States consul's letter to me that, in a certain contingency, the governor of Chihuahua will ask for United States troops to assist him to keep the peace. I have no doubt this contingency will arise; and permit me to urge upon your excellency that orders be immediately given to Colonel Fauntleroy, commanding this department to give the necessary succor to the governor of Chihuahua.

S. H.

67 a.

CHIHUAHUA, *January 18, 1860.*

DEAR SIR: We are here threatened with a band of armed men, 500 strong, who are marching from the State of Durango against this State. We have conflicting reports in regard to them. Some declare them robbers, others partisans. They are approaching Panal, south of this city, where, in all probability, they will reveal their true character. I enclose you a copy of a letter sent us by express from Panal, which speaks for itself; the signers are known to you. I have just had an interview with the governor, who says, in case they declare themselves robbers, he will call on the United States troops up there for assistance. Please deliver this letter to the commanding officer of the fort up there, that in case they can come, and are called upon, they may be ready. Please answer by return mail if the troops can come if called upon. Now is the time for a step in the right course.

GEO. L. MACMANN'S,
United States Consul.

Major HART.

67 a.

[Enclosure.]

PANAL, *January 14, 1860.*

8 o'clock at night.

DEAR SIR: For several days we have been threatened by a band of robbers, consisting of 500 men and upwards, under the command of

the Spaniard Caspar Pajaro Azul, Entimio Serrato, Pasillas, and other notorious robber chiefs. They have four pieces of artillery; they have embargoed the wagons of Mr. Bethel Hicks. The gefe politico has just received a communication from Oro de Aguas Calientes, that yesterday, at 9 o'clock a. m., Pajaro Azul entered there, plundered the place, and led off thirty inhabitants of the respectable class, with ropes around their necks. Far from respecting the life or property of any foreigner, they gutted the house of Washington Ken, carried off his arms and mules, and abused him in a most shameful manner, stripping him and obliging him to become their cargador. We have no detail of their atrocities in the haciendas and ranchos, but we have good reason to believe that their pretensions are similar to those of Cortinas, with whom they may be in concert. By the last accounts they are in Rio Florido or the Concepcion, 15 leagues from here, and we may have them upon us to-morrow. We are here some 15 Americans and other foreigners, who have formed ourselves into a little band, resolved to sell our lives as dearly as possible. The avowed intention of these banditti is to annihilate this place and march on Chihuahua. Of course they make use of the name of Tacubaya to introduce themselves into the towns and villages; but their fiendish atrocities in Santiago Papasquaro, Mapem, the Oro, and other places, prove what they are in reality. In view of the imminent danger that hangs over us, we despatch a special messenger to you with this letter, hoping that the government in Chihuahua may send on some assistance, but particularly that you may communicate this state of things to the commanding officer at Fort Davis or at Magoffinsville. You will perceive that we write you in haste, and remain,

Yours respectfully,

CHAS. MACMANNS.
B. C. HICKS.

F. MACMANNS, Esq., *Chihuahua*.

67 b.

CHIHUAHUA, *January 19, 1860.*

10 o'clock, p. m.

DEAR SIR: Your esteemed favor of the 27th ultimo is at hand, and will meet with due answer by the next mail to the Simpias. You will see, by the letter written you by our mutual friend George Macmanns, the very critical situation we find ourselves in at this moment in consequence of some 500 troops, or robbers, as is said, who are marching on this city. You will also see, from a letter received by Mr. F. Macmanns from Panal, and which was sent by Propio, how the people of that place feel on the subject. George Macmanns writes requesting the assistance of some American troops, as this government, I am sorry to say, is too imbecile to render us the protection necessary to defend our lives and property in case this place should fall into the hands of the parties coming.

I wrote you by mail this morning, hoping you will do all in your power for us poor creatures here.

Please remember me kindly to Merrelt, to whom I wrote this morning.

I am, dear sir, yours most truly,

EDWARD FRANCISCO POTTS.

SIMEON HART, Esq.

68. *Mr. Hart to Mr. Phelps.**

EL PASO, *January 21, p. m., 1860.*

MY DEAR MAJOR: An express came to me to-day from Chihuahua, bringing important intelligence. The letters I received; three of them, including one from the United States consul, I have enclosed to the President, to your care, which, with the documents, you will please examine carefully, hand them to Judge Hemphill and Colonel Wigfall, you and the judge and the colonel reading my letter to the President, &c. This being done you will please hand the same to the President, sealed up. You will note that I say to the President that I send the letter through you, referring to you for particulars of our situation, &c., here, and also say to him that I request our Texas senators to confer with him upon the subject matter treated of.

Please do me the favor to see Messrs. Wigfall and Hemphill, and decide on some action to secure the order for the military of the United States to act on the other side of the river in the towns near here, when such action is necessary to secure safety to the persons and property of Americans. If no succor can be given to Americans in the interior of Chihuahua, certainly we have a right to expect protection within hail of our military posts. I have, on the other side of the river, now over \$30,000 in merchandise. The merchandise is of Mexican manufacture, only salable on the other side in Mexico. To bring it here for security I would have to pay 25 to 40 per cent. duty.

Trias, in view of the coming troubles in Chihuahua, behaved very handsomely, taking military command under the regular government of the State, and so the late troubles are past, but God knows what is coming. You may rest assured there is no exaggeration in the letters I send to the President.

My wife's cousin, Munoz, is acting governor of Chihuahua at this time. The prefect on the other side of the river, Señor Vilarde, you will recollect, a man of sense and character. He came to me this morning to show his orders from the governor and ask my advice how he should act. You can speak to the President as to Vilarde, you knowing him, and you can assure Mr. Buchanan that his order to our army to protect our persons and property in El Paso and Guadalupe

*This paper, and Nos. 69, 72, and 73, of this series, were communicated to the Department of War by the Hon. John S. Phelps.

will much gratify the people on the other side of the river, and still more will they be gratified to have the military stationed in their towns. If the order comes as we ask, I will see that we are safe in El Paso and Guadalupe; then in six months there will be a prospect of annexation. You must hint this to Judge Hemphill and Colonel Wigfall, as also to the President.

I write by this mail to Judge Hemphill, addressing the letter as much to Colonel Wigfall as to the judge, saying to them that you will show them the letter, &c., I send to the President, and requesting them and the senators to confer with you and the President.

The present outside pressure against Chihuahua from Durango and the church party will tend to bring about what was so nearly accomplished by myself and friends a year since—that is, to have that State, by her congress, ask for annexation to us. If it were not for what our citizens might suffer, I would that the State suffer temporary defeat in the south. We can keep this part of the State, including some 30,000 of its population, quiet and kindly disposed for this measure, but we *must have* the order from the President to the effect that the military can cross the river to protect our persons and property. This will be in effect occupation, and so my Mexican friends with myself understand the matter. So you and Judge Hemphill, and Colonel Wigfall, and the other two members for Texas in the lower house, must insist upon the action of the President at once. Its effect will be to accelerate materially our peacefully obtaining Chihuahua by the State asking our government to do so, and it may be easily accomplished under our worthy and august President, Mr. Buchanan, an occasion that he might well be proud of.

Truly and sincerely yours,

S. HART.

HON. JOHN S. PHELPS, *Washington, D. C.*

I make the application to department headquarters to Colonel Fauntleroy for aid at the request of the prefect; this is a strong point to make with the President.

P. S.—As I am closing my letters, and it is time to mail them, the prefect of El Paso has not sent to me the certified copy of the governor of Chihuahua's order to him, and which, I say to the President, is enclosed. Please say to his excellency on handing him the papers that I will send the certified copy to you for his excellency by next mail.

69. *Mr. Hart to Mr. Phelps.*

EL PASO, TEXAS, *January 21, 1860, p. m.*

MY DEAR MAJOR: Referring to my reports of this morning, you will note in the Chihuahua United States consul's letter to me, which I sent to the President, that in a certain contingency the governor of

Chihuahua will ask for United States troops to assist him to keep the peace. I have no doubt the contingency will arise, and permit me to urge upon you the great importance of the President's giving such orders as will enable Colonel Fauntleroy to give the necessary succor, and that not a moment be lost in sending such orders to this department headquarters. This measure will, in my opinion, lead to very important results—an annexation in the most friendly and pleasant way; and you may so assure the President from me. Commending this business to you and our worthy United States senators, Messrs. Hemphill and Wigfall, I remain, as ever, truly yours,

S. HART.

Hon. JOHN L. PHELPS,
United States Congress, Washington, D. C.

70. *Colonel Seawell to the Adjutant General.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, January 24, 1860.

COLONEL: Herewith I have the honor to enclose a communication from Major Heintzelman, giving the latest intelligence of the state of affairs on the Rio Grande frontier. I must respectfully request that authority may be granted me from the War Department to reoccupy with two companies each the posts of Ringgold's barracks, Fort McIntosh, and Fort Duncan, as I am satisfied this will be the only means by which permanent quiet can be established on the borders of Mexico.

The commanding officer of Fort Washita recently informed me that not a hostile Indian had been known to come within sixty miles of that post within the last ten years. I would therefore request that the company of infantry now at Fort Arbuckle be sent to garrison Fort Washita, and the two companies of cavalry at the latter post be placed at the disposal of the department commander, to be used during the spring and summer for the protection of the Texas frontier.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. SEAWELL,

Lieut. Col. 8th Infantry, Commanding Department.

Colonel S. COOPER,

Adjutant General, U. S. A., Washington, D. C.

70 a.

HEADQUARTERS BROWNSVILLE EXPEDITION,
Ringgold Barracks, Texas, January 15, 1860.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th of January with its enclosures. It was received at Roma last night.

I am this far on my way to Brownsville to carry out the instructions of the lieutenant colonel commanding. I expect to complete the duty and return to this place in the course of the next three weeks.

The country is full of all sorts of rumors about Cortinas, but they do not appear to merit repeating.

Thus far I have not been able to ascertain of there being any force embodied, or even of his having been on this side of the river since the day of his defeat.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. P. HEINTZELMAN,

Major 1st Infantry, Commanding Expedition.

Capt. JNO. WITHERS,

Assist. Adjt. Gen. U. S. A., San Antonio, Texas.

71. *Major Heintzelman to Colonel Seawell.*

HEADQUARTERS BROWNSVILLE EXPEDITION,

Fort Brown, Texas, January 29, 1860.

SIR: I have the honor to report that I left Roma on the 15th and arrived here on the 21st of January with Captain Stoneman's company of cavalry.

On the march along the main road we found all the ranchos deserted, (and many burned,) with the exception of a Mexican family at Edinburg, and another at a place called "Los Peñitos," until we came almost in sight of this town.

At San Rosario, thirty-five to forty miles from here, five or six Mexicans were seen and pursued, but they escaped into the chapparal. These, undoubtedly, were some of the Cortinas men, as at this place the mail-carrier was stopped and robbed a few days before. This is the only place on the road at which we saw any signs of the enemy.

We have frequent accounts of small parties being on this side of the river, stealing cattle, and several individuals have been arrested who certainly belonged to them.

The three companies of the 8th infantry, ordered to form a camp near Laredo, are too far off to coöperate with me. There does not appear to be any necessity for more than one company at that point. As they are only ordered to coöperate, I have hesitated about asking them to come further down. I could employ them with advantage below Edinburg.

I will send Captain Stoneman's company to escort from this point, some twenty-five miles above, and, with another company of cavalry to be employed above that, considerable security would be afforded along the river. Complete security can only be obtained by crossing the river into Mexico, or by more active exertions on the part of the Mexican authorities in arresting these parties. These marauding parties have the active sympathy of all the lower classes of the Mexican population. When Cortinas escaped to the other side, after his defeat on the 27th of December last, many small parties were seen,

mostly unarmed. Now they are found at various points, well supplied with arms, ammunition, and supplies, and must be paid from funds obtained from the Mexican population. Small parties cross daily, steal cattle, or interrupt the travel and mails, and, when discovered, recross, being protected by their comrades on the other side. Cortinas himself was recognized by a party of rangers a few days ago, when they made a prisoner (caught stealing cattle) of one of his men, who was with him in Brownsville on the 28th of September.

The mail has now failed for the past week, and has, no doubt, been intercepted.

Every rancho owned by an American has been destroyed, and it is not safe for one to return to his home under the present situation of affairs. The Mexicans who are friendly are also afraid, and the consequence is, that although now is the time to prepare to put in a crop, not a plough is in the ground. Everywhere on the other side I saw preparations going on, or ploughing.

From the distracted state of parties at Matamoras it is idle to expect any active measures to put a stop to this state of affairs. There is not, therefore; and any movement in such a direction would prove exceedingly unpopular with the masses.

I intended to return immediately to Ringgold barracks, but I find it advisable to remain here until the country becomes more quiet. In Matamoras there is a strong fear of an invasion from this side.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. P. HEINTZELMAN,

Major 1st Infantry, Commanding Expedition.

Capt. JNO. WITHERS,

Assist. Adjt. Gen. U. S. A., San Antonio, Texas.

72. *Mr. Hart to Mr. Phelps.*

EL PASO, TEXAS, *January 29, 1860.*

MY DEAR MAJOR: By the return of the express to Chihuahua, I advised the governor, Señor Munoz, (who by the by is my wife's cousin,) in the event that he could not hold Chihuahua, to fall back on the Rio Grande, bringing with him the congress and all the civil officers, and to take post in El Paso, in front of this place, where a secure force, American volunteers and no doubt United States troops, could be organized, with which the governor could return to his capital and drive the insurgent church-party out of the State. I also said to the governor that if he would make formal application through the Chihuahua United States consul for United States troops, that I would proceed to Santa Fé with such application and endeavor to induce Colonel Fauntleroy to take prompt action in the matter, and anticipate authority from the President to do so.

I have fully arranged with the authorities of El Paso, to the effect that they will ask for United States troops to occupy that town and Guadalupe and San Ygnacio, should such occupation be deemed neces-

sary to protect Americans and their property in those towns. I expect by next mail from Santa Fé, due here in five days, that orders will come from Colonel Fauntleroy for the troops at Fort Bliss to occupy the above towns, when the Mexican authorities ask that it may be done.

I have no doubt such occupation will be necessary, perhaps, indeed, before we can hear from Santa Fé, or at any moment news may reach here that Chihuahua is taken, and the next hour may witness in the towns on the other side of the river the utmost disorder and injury to Americans, and their property spoliated beyond redress and remedy. I have \$30,000 in personal property and real estate in the said towns, and you may suppose I am uneasy regarding its safety. I trust the President has lost no time in taking measures for our safety.

Truly and sincerely yours,

S. HART.

HON. JOHN S. PHELPS,
Washington, D. C.

73. *Mr. Hart to Mr. Phelps.*

EL PASO, TEXAS, *January 31, 1860.*

MY DEAR MAJOR: This morning I received another express from Chihuahua to myself and the Mexican prefect, Señor Vilarde, asking me to furnish the means to buy two hundred stand of arms for account of the governor of Chihuahua, giving me a lien on the revenues of the State to reimburse the amount. The prefect, with myself, have procured the arms, and they leave to-morrow for the city of Chihuahua with an escort of one hundred men from El Paso.

Panal has been taken by the insurgent thieves, after much slaughter and cruelty. The prisons were emptied, and the prisoners, with a captain set over them by the invaders, were let loose to murder, sack, and despoil.

Particulars were not received at Chihuahua when the governor sent off the express for the arms. I presume American citizens were the first to suffer at Panal, as they are leading merchants and business men of that city, of some 15,000 inhabitants, it being one of the richest mining regions of the State.

I will forward to you such information as I may receive from this part of Mexico.

Very truly, yours,

S. HART.

HON. JOHN S. PHELPS,
Washington, D. C.

74. *Major Heintzelman to the Adjutant General.*

HEADQUARTERS BROWNSVILLE EXPEDITION,
Fort Brown, Texas, February 2, 1860.

SIR: Having received instructions from the commander of the department to collect the names of the killed, and ascertain the damage done by Cortinas and his command, I left Roma on the 15th and arrived here on the 21st of January with Captain Stoneman's cavalry.

On the march I found all the ranches but one on the road this side of Edinburg deserted, and many burned, until we came almost in sight of this town.

Some half dozen Mexicans were seen at a ranch called San Rosario, thirty-five or forty miles above this. They were pursued, but escaped into the chapparal. They undoubtedly belonged to Cortinas's bands, as the mail-carrier was robbed at this place a few days before. This is the only sign of the enemy seen on the road. I have no information on which I can rely of any parties being on this side of the river. Small parties frequently cross, steal cattle, and return to the Mexican side. The river is very low and narrow, and easily crossed, so that it is impossible to prevent this entirely. It can only be done by crossing or occupying the Mexican side of the river. The whole frontier on our side is abandoned and waste.

I hear of small parties on the Mexican side of the river, and well equipped, with arms, ammunition, and supplies. These must have been obtained from the Mexicans, as few escaped from their defeat with arms. Cortinas has the sympathy and aid of the population, and the feeling against the Americans is very great.

With one of the Texas commissioners I called on General Guadalupe Garcia, the Mexican commandant at Matamoras, and he showed us an order from the secretary of war of Mexico, through the governor of Tamaulipas, directing him to co-operate with our troops to break up these marauding parties. I have got to learn of his having taken any steps to do so, and doubt of his ability, under the present state of feeling, to accomplish anything should he attempt it.

With Captain Stoneman's company and two companies of rangers in service of the United States, I am endeavoring to protect the country as far as Ringgold barracks, and induce the inhabitants to return to plant and collect their cattle.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
S. P. HEINTZELMAN,
Major 1st Infantry, Commanding.

Col. S. COOPER,
Adj. Gen. U. S. A., Washington, D. C.

75. *Lieutenant Fink to Colonel Seawell.*

HEADQUARTERS, FORT DAVIS, TEXAS,
February 4, 1860.

SIR: I have the honor to report the arrival at this post to-day, from Chihuahua, of two American citizens, Messrs. McManus and Hickman. Those gentlemen have informed me that they, together with all other American citizens, as well as other foreigners, who were residents of Chihuahua, had been obliged to leave that city in consequence of a threatened attack upon it by a party of Miramon's troops. These troops, not many in number, it is said, were assisted by a numerous band of robbers, who did respect neither life nor property of the inhabitants, especially of foreigners. As an example, they state that the town of Panal, a short time since, was taken by them after a gallant defence on the part of the inhabitants, a large number of whom having been taken prisoners were murdered in cold blood.

The governor at Chihuahua, I am informed, has solicited assistance from the military authorities of the United States at Fort Bliss.

Messrs. McManus and Hickman also called upon me to give, if possible, assistance to the inhabitants of Chihuahua in men and arms, which request, as a matter of course, I found myself forced to decline.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THEODORE FINK,
1st Lieutenant 8th Infantry, Commanding Post.
The ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL,
Headquarters Department of Texas, San Antonio, Texas.

76. *Major Heintzelman to the Adjutant General.*

HEADQUARTERS BROWNSVILLE EXPEDITION,
Fort Brown, Texas, February 5, 1860.

SIR: I have the honor to report that the steamboat *Ranchero*, on her way down the Rio Grande with a valuable freight, was fired upon by Cortinas from the Mexican side of the river, at the Bartoni, a point thirty-five miles above this. At the same time a party of rangers, escorting provisions, were also fired upon from the same side, and one man mortally wounded. The fire was returned immediately. The fire was continued, when, the better to protect the boat, Captain Ford crossed a portion of his men, and drove the enemy into the chapparal. Captain Stoneman's company of cavalry, fifteen miles above here, advanced last night to support him. We now have some 200 men at that point.

An express arrived at Matamoras last night at 9 o'clock and by 11 from 80 to 100 men had left, it is supposed, to join Cortinas. He has the active sympathy of the greater portion of the population.

I this morning addressed a note to General Garcia, the Mexican commandant, informing him of these occurrences, and asking him to

co-operate in putting down the marauders. I am now awaiting his answer, but fear the steamer will leave before it comes.

There is some alarm of an attack from the other side, though I think there is no danger unless there is a pronunciamiento against the liberal party.

More troops are required on this frontier.

Since writing the above I have received an answer to my note to General Garcia. He expresses the strongest desire to do all in his power to arrest Cortinas, and break up his forces. He last night sent 40 men of the rural police, the only force he has, and will, in the course of the afternoon and evening, send more so soon as they can be organized. At his request I have ordered our troops to recross the river.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. P. HEINTZELMAN,

Major 1st Infantry, Commanding.

Colonel S. COOPER,

Adjutant General U. S. A., Washington.

77. *Mr. Hart to Mr. Floyd.*

EL PASO, Texas, February 7, 1859.

GOVERNOR: I have the honor to call your attention to occurring events on this frontier touching our relations with Mexico. The church party at last accounts, which I deem authentic, were organizing a column at Guadalajara to march on Chihuahua and Durango, to occupy these two States for their party. I believe no resistance will be made, as these two States are without resources, having exhausted themselves to hold out for the liberal party. Under these circumstances, American citizens like myself are exposed to serious loss by disorders which may occur on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande. In Chihuahua I have large interests in personal property, merchandise, and real estate there, and without special orders from your department I *know* that the present commanding officer at Fort Bliss will not interfere to save our property from damage and loss, although our troops be garrisoned within sight of such spoliations. This should not be so, and the officers in command of this part of the frontier should have orders to interfere, if necessary, to save our property from injury if not from destruction.

If the church party become uppermost, we have nothing else to expect, as they are inimical to us, while the liberal party now in power in Chihuahua are comparatively friendly; at least they are far from injuring our persons or property.

What our naval vessels in foreign ports do to protect American citizens and their property, the same is the duty of our troops stationed on this frontier, to interfere to the same end, and I have the honor to request that you will see that the commanding officer at Fort Bliss

receive such orders as will direct his interposition, if necessary, to give safety to American citizens and their property in the towns on the other side of the river, almost within hail of Fort Bliss.

I remain, governor, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
S. HART.

Governor JOHN B. FLOYD,
Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.

Since the date of the above Durango has succumbed to the church party, and Chihuahua I fear will have to do the same very soon.

S. H.

78. *Colonel Seawell to the Adjutant General.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, February 10, 1860.

SIR: Herewith I have the honor to enclose a communication from Major S. P. Heintzelman, embracing the latest official intelligence from the Rio Grande. It does not clearly appear from this letter why Major Heintzelman has not made use of the three companies of infantry at Laredo, which, in my special order No. 122, of 1859, were placed at his disposal. I have ordered one of these, Captain Jordan's, company D, eighth infantry, to proceed to Ringgold barracks and report to Major Heintzelman, and I have also ordered Captain Bradfute's, company G, second cavalry, to proceed from Fort Inge to old Fort Ewell, where it will meet Major McClure, of the pay department, and proceed thence with him as his escort to Brownsville, after which it will be at the disposal of Major Heintzelman. These dispositions, with the three companies of artillery, and one of cavalry already on the lower Rio Grande, will, I think, enable the major to preserve as great a degree of quiet on that frontier of Texas as can be maintained until the military occupation of the opposite bank of the Rio Grande is effected, or at least until our troops are permitted to follow into Mexico the robbers who cross over to our own side for the purposes of pillage and murder.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
W. SEAWELL,
Lieutenant Colonel 8th Infantry, Com'g Department.

Colonel S. COOPER,
Adjutant General United States army, Washington, D. C.

78. a.

HEADQUARTERS BROWNSVILLE EXPEDITION,
Fort Brown, Texas, February 5, 1860.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that last night an express reached me with the information that Cortinas had fired upon the steamboat Ranchero on her way down the river, with a valuable freight

at the "Bartone," a point thirty-five miles above here. At the same time a party of Captain Ford's men escorting provisions were also fired upon and one man mortally wounded. The fire was immediately returned. The better to protect the boat, Captain Ford crossed with a portion of his men and drove the enemy into the chaparral. Captain Stoneman's cavalry, fifteen miles above here, advanced last night to his support. We have now some two hundred men at this point.

An express arrived in Matamoras last night at 9 o'clock, and by 11, from eighty to one hundred men had left, it is supposed to join Cortinas. He has the active sympathy of the greater portion of the population.

I this morning addressed a note to General Garcia, the Mexican commandant, informing him of these acts, and asking him to co-operate in putting down the marauders. I am now awaiting his answer.

I have also sent an express to Captain Lee for two of the companies encamped near Laredo. They are very small and cannot join in less than fifteen days. There is some alarm of an attack from the other side, though I think there is no danger unless there is a pronunciamiento against the liberal party.

More troops are required on this frontier. I enclose copies of the two letters received.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. P. HEINTZELMAN,

Major 1st Infantry, Commanding.

Captain JOHN WITHERS,

Asst. Adj't. Gen. U. S. A., San Antonio, Texas.

P. S.—I this moment received an answer to my letter to General Garcia. He expresses a strong desire to do all in his power to arrest this bandit, and sent last night about forty men of the rural police, the only force he has. In the course of the afternoon and evening, so soon as they can be organized, more will be sent. At his request I have ordered our troops to return to this side of the river.

S. P. H.

78 b.

OPPOSITE LA BALSA, NEAR BASTON, TEXAS,
February 4, 1860.

SIR: Major Ford, commanding the rangers, (who just arrived here, 4 o'clock p. m.,) has requested me to state what occurred before he came, and also to tell you the reason for his crossing into Mexico; which he is now doing, his command being now nearly crossed over.

Just before we arrived here to-day, while we were at dinner, a man came in and stated that the boat was fired into, (one ball passed through the flag.) On landing we found one ranger mortally wounded; we returned the fire with our gun from the boat, and with our rifles,

When Major Ford arrived he thought it best, after taking counsel

from all on board, to cross the river, *the better to protect the freight and the money.*

While I am writing firing is going on.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

LOOMIS L. LANGDON,

2d Lieutenant 1st Artillery, A. A. Q. M.

Major HEINTZELMAN, U. S. A., Fort Brown, Texas.

A true copy.

C. W. THOMAS,

2d Lieutenant 1st Infantry.

78 c.

LA BALSA, February 4, 1860.

SIR: At this point, to-day, on the Rio Grande the forces of Cortinas fired on us from the Mexican side, and mortally wounded one of my men. Almost at the same time the steamer Ranchero, then about half a mile above, was fired upon from the same side—one of the balls passing through the American flag at her masthead. Upon this fire being returned, the enemy retired into the chaparral, on the Mexican side, to capture the boat, or at least attempt it. I do not think it is practicable to protect the steamer with forces upon our side of the river only. I shall pass over this evening afoot, and beat the brush in the neighborhood. To-morrow morning I will pass over my horses, and with the whole force under my command go down upon the Mexican side, keeping, as near as possible, even pace with the boat. I would suggest that you detach a force, to come up on the Texas side, to escort her down. I think that by this co-operation only can the life and property on her be secured.

JONH S. FORD,

Captain, Commanding Squadron Texas Rangers.

Major S. HEINTZELMAN,

*1st Infantry, Commanding Brownsville Expedition,
Brownsville, Texas.*

A true copy.

C. W. THOMAS,

2d Lieutenant 1st Infantry.

79. Major Heintzelman to Colonel Jewell.

HEADQUARTERS BROWNSVILLE EXPEDITION,

Fort Brown, Texas, February 10, 1860.

SIR: Since my letter of the 5th February, I have received Captain Ford's report of what took place on the 4th, when he crossed the river into Mexico to protect the steamboat Ranchero on her way down, with a cargo valued at \$200,000.

On the 2d of February two companies of State troops, Captains Ford and Littleton, were placed under my orders by the commissioners of the State of Texas. I sent Captain Stoneman's cavalry to occupy the country from this point to about thirty miles above, and the two companies of rangers to occupy from there up the river as far as Edinburg. On their way up, the morning of the 4th, they found some of Cortinas's men depredating on stock, and killed seven of them. Corporal Duty, of Captain Ford's company, with a guard, was sent in advance with the baggage wagons. At Zacetal rancho, opposite La Balsa, he encountered 30 Mexicans, and drove them across the Rio Grande. His party, with some rangers under Major Tobin and Captain Tomlinson, from above, were fired upon from the Mexican side, and one man was mortally wounded.

In the meantime, the steamboat, which was near by, was also fired upon. Captain Ford arriving, he crossed the river with 49 men. After a sharp skirmish, kept up for about an hour, the enemy was driven from his defences, and the jacals were fired. He had two rangers wounded. The Mexican loss, according to their own account, is 29 killed and 40 wounded; their whole force, 150 infantry and 50 cavalry. Captain Ford reports that the officers and men behaved admirably.

About midnight Captain Stoneman's cavalry arrived. We had now about 200 men on the ground.

The next morning, the better to protect the boat, 47 officers and men, under Captains Ford and Littleton, crossed the river with their horses and accompanied the boat.

At La Palmas, two or three miles down, they encountered a body of armed men retreating before them. Some of them belonged to the "rural police;" part were rancheros, and the larger portion, no doubt, belonged to Cortinas. As the captain of the police would not vouch for them, the latter drew apart, and Captain Ford held a conference with the commander of the police. In compliance with my orders and the arrangement I made with General Garcia, the troops re-crossed to our side of the river the next day.

Captain Ford conducted with much prudence, and none of the inhabitants were molested or their property disturbed.

On the 8th I received a communication from Juakin Arquilla, esq., temporarily in command at Matamoras. I enclose my reply, which explains itself.

The dangerous excitement of the last few days has abated; the troops will remove their positions on the river.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. P. HEINTZELMAN,

Major U. S. Infantry, Commanding.

Captain JNO. WITHERS,

Assistant Adjutant General U. S. A., San Antonio, Texas.

80. *Governor Houston to Mr. Floyd.*

AUSTIN, *February 15, 1860.*

SIR: I have the honor to forward by my friend Gen. Forbes Britton, assistant adjutant general of the State, and a prominent member of the State senate, despatches which I deem of importance, and desire that his excellency the President shall consider the contents thereof.

I deplore the situation of Texas—an empty treasury, the Indian troubles unexampled for the last ten years, and the forays from Mexico on our southern borders are well calculated to impress the mind of the executive of the State of Texas with the intricacies of the attitude which he has, in justice to his fellow-citizens and humanity, to assume. Should not the federal arm be speedily raised and extended in behalf of our suffering frontier? The executive of Texas is greatly desirous to avoid any course which might raise even a question as to the propriety of his action. Notwithstanding all his moderation and desire to eschew an attitude unpleasant to him, he may, in a short time, be required to resort to the indefeasible right of self-defence to protect his fellow-citizens. He will, in addition to manifest forbearance, endeavor yet further to defer to the action of the federal government. But matters new and startling arise, and he may feel that his duty is to meet the emergency in carrying his action so far as to not only repel the aggressions from Mexico, but to adopt such measures as will prevent the recurrence of similar inroads upon our frontiers.

Texas can and will, if appealed to in thirty days, be able to muster in the field ten thousand men, who are anxious, embarrassed as her finances are, to make reclamation upon Mexico for all her wrongs.

Can we hope for aid from the federal government?

I have the honor to be your most obedient servant,

SAM. HOUSTON.

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,

Secretary of War.

80 a.

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS,

Brownsville, January 12, 1860.

SIR: You will proceed to this place with your command without delay, for the purpose of being mustered for discharge, before leaving your present camp. You will consult with Major Heintzelman, United States army, as to what risk the frontier will suffer by your leaving your present position.

Respectfully,

A. NAVARRO,

ROBERT H. TAYLOR,

Commissioners of the State of Texas.

Major WILLIAM TOBIN,

Commanding Texas Volunteers.

80 b.

OFFICE OF TEXAS STATE COMMISSIONERS,
Brownsville, Texas, January 12, 1860.

DEAR SIR: The undersigned commissioners, appointed by the governor of the State of Texas, were required to consult with you as to the best mode of quieting the disturbances on this frontier. They beg leave, therefore, to request that you will advise Major Tobin, Texas volunteers, as to the risk the frontier will suffer by the order this day transmitted by us to him ordering him to this place for discharge.

Respectfully,

A. NAVARRO,
ROBERT H. TAYLOR,
Commissioners of the State of Texas.

Major HEINTZELMAN, *United States Army.*

80 c.

BROWNSVILLE, *January 31, 1860.*

DEAR SIR: During my intercourse with the Mexican people on both sides of the Rio Grande, I have had many opportunities to sound the Mexican mind in reference to the future political condition of the country. Although many turbulent leaders exist among them, the Mexican people, as a mass, are hoping for a deliverance from anarchy, and would rejoice in the establishment of a stable form of government which would protect their lives and property and give them peace.

The liberal party entire look to the United States with hope, and pray for its interposition in behalf of their unhappy country. The Miramon party, emboldened by late successes, are hostile to the measure, because its leaders hope, by the establishment of their power, to gain wealth and influence. Many of the most intelligent men of Tamaulipas regard a protectorate as the only means by which Mexico can be redeemed from the reign of outlaws and petty tyrants. There are many such men to be found even in the border district, and if a guarantee were offered for their lives by the appearance of a sufficient body of American troops to overcome the unruly portion of the population, they would speak out their sentiments and at once set themselves to work to better the condition of the country.

This Cortinas trouble has aroused much bad feeling on the part of those who wish to sustain anarchy, to aid their schemes of robbery, and great effort is made to excite animosity against all Americans. The result has been that many of the lower order of rancheros have been drawn to his standard. The Miramon party being opposed to the Juarez treaty, are interested in encouraging this feeling, as anything which tends to excite prejudice against Americans militates against the treaty.

The leading men of Matamoras knowing that the Miramon party

will not hesitate to turn Cortinas and his followers upon their city, fear to excite his opposition and are forced to countenance his movements.

That there is a deep seated hostility on the part of many to everything American, there can be no doubt; but with the great mass even this would yield before the same course of justice and humanity which characterized the United States in its annexation and acquisition policy.

Mexico has been oppressed beyond degree; but there are yet in her midst men who hope for the redemption of their country, I honestly believe that such men lend their support and influence whenever a fair opportunity offers to extend and establish American influence in Mexico. An emergency like that presented to the United States, calls, in my opinion, for prompt action. How the character of the nation can be maintained, and these things continue, I am at a loss to determine, and if they continue, and the United States do not interfere to protect Texas, I cannot see how Texas can maintain the proud position she now occupies, unless she not only repels these invasions of her soil, but puts it beyond the power of the outlaws upon the Mexican border to aggress upon our people, by taking possession of a sufficient portion of the border sections of Mexico as will enable us to establish order and check these hostile incursions, if attempted thereafter.

I remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ANGEL NAVARRO.

Governor SAM HOUSTON.

No. 80 d.

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS,
Brownsville, February 2, 1860.

SIR: Will you please give us your opinion as to what force of Texas rangers will, for the present, be necessary to be kept in the service for the protection of the frontier?

Yours respectfully,

ANGEL NAVARRO.

Major HEINTZELMAN.

No. 80 e.

HEADQUARTERS BROWNSVILLE EXPEDITION,
Fort Brown, Texas, February 2, 1860.

GENTLEMEN: In reply to your note of this morning, asking my opinion as to what force of Texas rangers will, for the present, be necessary to be kept in the service for the protection of this frontier, I have the honor to state: In my opinion, the two companies of rangers now in the service of the State are sufficient. I have but one

company of cavalry at my disposal, and this force I consider entirely inadequate for the security of the frontier, as I am not authorized to cross the river into Mexico, where the marauders recruit and organize, and to where they flee for safety when pursued.

The ease with which incursions can be made from the other side will make it exceedingly difficult to give protection, unless the troops are authorized to occupy the opposite side of the river.

I am, gentlemen, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
S P. HEINTZELMAN,
Major U. S. Infantry, Com'g Brownsville Expedition.
Messrs. ANGEL NAVARRO and ROBT. H. TAYLOR,
Commissioners, State of Texas.

No. 80 f.

Special Order.

OFFICE OF STATE COMMISSIONERS,
Brownsville, Texas, February 2, 1860.

SIR: From and after this date your movements and the troops under your command will be directed by Major Heintzelman, or other commanding officer of the U. S. army on this frontier. You will, therefore, obey all orders emanating from such officer.

Respectfully,

A. NAVARRO,
ROBT. H. TAYLOR,
State Commissioners.

Captain J. S. FORD,
Com'dg Texan Rangers on Rio Grande frontier.

80 g.

BROWNSVILLE, *February 6, 1860.*

SIR: I avail myself of a few moments time before the departure of the steamer to advise you of an engagement with the outlaw, Cortinas.

On Friday, on my march from Rio Grande City to this place, at the same time guarding the steamer Ranchero, on her way also from Rio Grande City to this place, she was fired into from the Mexican bank of the river, at a rancho called the Balsa; the fire was promptly returned from the steamer, with a small piece of artillery which she had on board, after which she landed on this side of the river. Just at this time I met Captains Ford and Littleton with their companies on their march up the river, when a hasty consultation was had, and it was resolved that the troops should cross the river in pursuit of the enemy, which resolution was promptly, executed and about sixty men,

consisting of detachments from Tomlinsons, Fords, and Littleton's companies, crossed to the Mexican side and attacked the enemy in his position, which consisted of a barricade, and after a sharp conflict of about one hour and a half completely routed him. The enemy had about 200 men and I think lost about 25 or 30 men. No Americans were killed; one wounded mortally and two slightly.

I had, on my way down, previous to the firing into the Ranchero, several skirmishes with the enemy on this side, and took from him some two hundred head of beeves.

The time is so short that I cannot furnish details; by next steamer I will transmit you a detailed report.

I am very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. G. TOBIN,

Major, Commanding Rangers.

His exc'y Gov. SAM. HOUSTON, *Austin Texas.*

80 h.

BROWNSVILLE, *February 6, 1860.*

DEAR GENERAL: The Mexicans since yesterday's fight, of which I have no report as yet, are arming everything that can carry a gun, and I anticipate much trouble here. I have therefore thought proper to keep Tomlinson's company in service until I hear from you; I think it necessary; I believe a general war is inevitable, the authorities of Matamoras have armed the populace, some of whom were in the fight on Friday; new arms have been distributed to all the rancheros, so I apprehend trouble. I shall therefore take the responsibility to retain Tomlinson until further orders from you, which I can get, if you write by return mail, in twelve days.

Truly yours,

ROBERT H. TAYLOR.

80 i.

CITY OF AUSTIN, *February 15, 1860.*

The undersigned, one of the commissioners appointed to investigate the causes, origin, and progress of the disturbances on the Rio Grande river, begs leave to make the following condensed report of the facts substantially contained in our report submitted to your excellency, dated at Brownsville, Texas, February 4, 1860.

We have come to the conclusion from our observation and from testimony of divers persons, that the difficulty was originally occasioned by a private feud between Juan Nepomucena Cortinas, and sundry individuals of the county of Cameron.

We find the testimony taken that this man Cortinas, is a thief and a murderer, as an indictment for murder has been standing against him since the year 1850, and he never has been arrested. In the month

of July last, he had the audacity in open daylight, in the streets of Brownsville, to attack and shoot the city marshal, and rescue a person from the hands of said marshal.

On the 28th of September last, we find this man Cortinas, at the head of a band of forty outlaws, at daybreak, attacking the county jail, killing the jailor, one Johnson, and a Mexican, in whose house Johnson sought refuge; killing a young man by the name of Neale, and a man in the garrison named Morris. He then deliberately paraded the streets of Brownsville, demanding that the citizens should give up to his vengeance certain men named. Immediately afterwards he fortified his mother's rancho, collecting around him all the ruffians he could from both sides of the river and bid defiance to the authorities. Sometime in October last he was attacked in his defences. A part of his forces met a party of Captain Tobin's command, and defeated the latter at Palo Alto. On the 14th of December last, Major Heintzelman, United States army, joining the Texas troops with his command, completely routed Cortinas's force. After that he recruited his band to four or five hundred men, and concentrated his force at Rio Grande City, and on the 27th of December last, that same gallant officer, Major Heintzelman, with Captains Ford and Tobins, of the Texas troops, completely routed him and dispersed his force, and it was supposed he was entirely broken up. Since then he has been encamped eight miles above Matamoras on the Mexican side of the river, recruiting and sending his parties into Texas stealing cattle and horses and replenishing his commissariat, ready to cross as he may think proper.

All this, we believe, is known to the Mexican authorities. It is our opinion that the authorities on the Mexican side of the river are cognizant now, and have been all the while of his movements, and that his men have been armed by them, and he has been furnished ammunition, and received aid and comfort from the beginning. His parties cross the river daily in squads of two, three, or more, and at night have driven across the river stock, horses, and cattle, to the amount of more than a thousand dollars.

We believe that Cortinas is sustained by Mexican money and arms. He is kept for the purpose of aiding the reactionists or priest party, in the event of the ratification of the McLean treaty. He has, we have no doubt, between Camargo and Matamoras, five hundred men subject to his order; they are stationed at the crossings between the two places. When our troops move up or down the river they can be seen at any time in armed parties of ten, fifteen, and as high as fifty, and they have appeared on the opposite bank and defied our troops. Such is the state of affairs on the Rio Grande. The ranchos or farms are destroyed or abandoned; the cattle and horses, as far out as the arroyo Colorado, have been driven off; and, in fact, the whole country from Brownsville to Rio Grande City, a distance of one hundred and thirty miles, is an utter desolation. The Mexican families have, with a few exceptions, crossed the river, and are encamped, many of them, without house or shelter. There is no security for life or property on the Rio Grande except at Brownsville or in the immediate presence of the military. Finding this state of things when we

arrived at Brownsville, and Major Heintzelman being absent at the time at Ringgold barracks, we concluded that the United States force, joined with two companies of rangers, would afford protection to the frontier; and finding Captain Tobin's command without organization, muster-rolls, or anything like discipline, we ordered Major Tobin to Brownsville for discharge. We concluded that these companies were not entitled to a major. We discharged Captain Walker's company on the — day of January, and mustered a new company under the late law.

On the 1st day of February, instant, we discharged Captain Littleton's company, and after a reorganization, mustered it in again. Rolls are herewith transmitted. Captain John S. Ford is the senior officer, and will command under instructions from the United States officer commanding that frontier.—(See our order dated February 4, 1860, and also letter from Major Heintzelman, as to the necessity of keeping two companies in the field.)

Attached we submit a copy of an order of the governor of Tamaulipas, Mexico, to General Guadalupe Garcia, military commandant of the line of the Bravo, directing the dispersion of Cortinas's band. But the state of feeling toward Americans is so hostile that the Mexicans cannot check him. Nothing but anarchy and discord reigns in Mexico, and, in our opinion, the only way to stop these disturbances is to occupy the right bank of the Rio Bravo. In this we are sustained by the opinion of the military commandant. This boundary line is worse than an imaginary one, and to defend what we already possess it is necessary for us to adopt a line of defences west of the Rio Bravo.

The feeling against Americans on account of former filibustering expeditions, together with the bad feeling engendered by the treaty of the Juarez government, is such that we can no longer live as neighbors in peace.

It then becomes those in authority in our government to take steps, to the end that at least American life and property may for the future be secure. General Guadalupe Garcia, commandant of the line of the Bravo, called on us and assured us that he would use all means in his power to break up the rendezvous of Cortinas in Mexico. We believe he is not able to do it, from the fact that a large majority of the Mexicans, and those in power, too, sympathize with the bandit, Cortinas.

A. NAVARRO.

Gen. SAM. HOUSTON,

Governor of the State of Texas.

Statements of witnesses enclosed.

1, William Nelson; 2, A. Werbiskie; 3, Adolphus Glaruke; 4, O. H. Carolan; 5, Charles Stillman; 6, Robert Shears; 7, Thaddeus Rhodes; 8, J. Turner.

$$\frac{80 \text{ i.}}{1.}$$

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Cameron:*

My name is William Nelson. I am the clerk of the district court of Cameron county. I have lived here since July, 1848. I am acquainted with Juan Nepomuceno Cortinas. I know of an indictment pending in the district court of this county against said Cortinas since 1850, for murder. During the time that I have acted as clerk I have issued *capias* for the arrest of Cortinas, and, in fact, I know that there has been a *capias* in the hands of the sheriff ever since the indictment was found. I believe that through the influence of politicians or political manœvering the arrest of said Cortinas was heretofore prevented. There are — indictments pending against said Cortinas, of which there are three for cattle stealing, and others, copies of which are hereto attached. I am satisfied that the authorities of Matamoras are cognizant of the fact of Cortinas's men being in that city, and that they sympathize with him, and even encourage him in his movements, at least privately, if not openly; and I am satisfied that in his band there are many Mexicans from the opposite side of the river, as well as from this side, and that all of them are Mexicans or of Mexican origin. I believe that a certain movement made here in 1848, commonly known as the territorial movement, at which time a great many speeches and addresses were made in the English and Spanish languages, tended to impress the Mexicans on this side of the river with the idea that Texas had no claims to the territory on this side of the Nueces river, or at least that her claim to said territory was doubtful; and I believe that up to this time, from the fact that the Mexicans are generally ignorant of our language and our laws, are impressed with the idea that the territory or lands west of Nueces river are held by Texas by a doubtful title, and that her claim is questionable. The honorable representative from Hidalgo and Cameron county, now in the legislature of the State of Texas, took an active part in the territorial movement and made speeches. I am satisfied that the reason why Cortinas was not arrested on the old indictment was because he was known to be an influential man in elections, and that some of our officers feared him on account of his political influence, and wishing to use him for political purposes, he was treated with a great deal of leniency, more so than any other criminal in this country.

W. W. NELSON.

Signed before us this 17th January, 1860.

ANGEL NAVARRO.

$$\frac{81 \text{ i.}}{2.}$$

Statement of A. Werbiskie.

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Cameron.*

My name is A. Werbiskie ; I live in Brownsville ; I have been living in this county since 1848 ; I am well acquainted with Juan Nepomuceno Cortinas. Five or six days after the first attack of Cortinas upon the town of Brownsville, I had an interview with him at his mother's rancho, about seven or eight miles from here ; Cortinas asked me whether I was authorized to guarantee to him that he would not be molested by the Americans if he attempted to cross his stock to the Mexican side of the river ; I told him I was not, but that I thought he would not be molested ; he stated to me at that time that he intended to cross his property to the other side of the river, and that as to his enemies, those persons that had wronged him, that he would take revenge from them whenever he would meet them ; that the world was large, and that he would probably meet them at some place.

Cortinas's stock was estimated at about three or four hundred head of cattle, and two *manadas* of horses, (about fifty head.) Before the difficulty of Cortinas with Bob Shears, which was in the month of August last, if I recollect right, which resulted in the shooting of Shears by Cortinas, I know of my own knowledge that Juan N. Cortinas used to come into the city of Brownsville three or four times a month, or in fact whenever he pleased, and walked publicly in the streets of Brownsville, for although I understand there was an indictment pending against him for some connexion in the killing of somebody, and another indictment for stealing, yet it seems that these things had been hushed or looked over, as he was friendly with the sheriff, Brown, and, I believe, that if that difficulty with Marshall Shears had not occurred, Cortinas would not have been troubled with the authorities of Brownsville, for it seems so from the fact that he had not been arrested before when he was often in the city, and could have been arrested.

I think the first origin of the whole difficulty of Cortinas rising and taking arms, arose from some private quarrels which he had with Adolphe Glaruke and others, as Cortinas thought, or at least professed, that he had been treated wrong.

After he took the first steps, considering that he had done something to put himself out of the pale of the law, I believe he has become desperate, and has endeavored to do wrong as much as possible. When he made the first attack upon Brownsville, if he had been willing to do it, he could have robbed and sacked the whole town. I know nothing of the depredations that he has committed, only from hearsay. The report is that he has destroyed a great deal of property in the way of cattle, &c. I do not know of any connexion of the Mexican officials with the movements of Cortinas, but I do

know that some of Cortinas's men, and particularly some of his headmen, cross over to Matamoras, and that they are allowed to remain there without being molested by the Mexican authorities.

A. WERBISKIE.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 10th of January, 1860.

S. POWERS,

Chief Justice Cameron County, Texas.

80 i.
3.

On the 16th of January, 1860, Adolphus Glaruke, a resident of Cameron county, appeared before me, the undersigned authority, and who, being duly sworn, made oath, and says:

That I knew Juan Nepomuceno Cortinas since eighteen hundred and thirty-six. In 1847 he was employed by a gentleman, Mr. Somerville, to buy eighty mules for him, and, after buying those mules, he started with his employer into the interior, but only nine miles from the river he murdered Mr. Somerville, and drove his mules to Brazos St. Jago, and sold them there to our government, for which he was indicted, but never arrested. In 1849 he, in company with Juan Chapa, Juan Itrocha, and others, came over and attacked a train of carts, loaded with dry goods, belonging to Charles Stilman & Bro., and robbed it of a large amount of goods, which he carried with him over the river.

In 1852 he again crossed with a band of robbers, and attacked and tied down a servant of A. T. Mason and a shepherd of T. B. Bigelow, within six miles of Brownsville, and drove off some forty head of horses and mares, and killed at the same time fourteen fat sheep belonging to T. B. Bigelow.

Since that time he has avoided the law more than before, but he has regularly kept up making his sallies into our county, and principally in the moon nights, driving off large droves of cattle into Mexico, up to November, 1858, when I followed him over the river, and found and brought back some of my cattle, one of John T. Cross's, and two of Mr. Mallet's, which I found fifteen miles from the river, at a rancho called Mayelles. In the spring term of our court I had him indicted for his numerous robberies, and since then he has been seeking my life, and consequently watching his movements closely on both sides of the river. I knew that he had a captain's commission to raise one hundred men to assist the Federals at Tampico, and I further know that he did pay his men regularly two dollars per week, and that he received this money from Matamoras. All this I learned from his own men, to wit: Minguil de los Santos and Guadalupe Barrynao, both very intimate with Cortinas.

Of the shooting of our city marshal in July, 1859, I know nothing, being absent at the time.

In the month of August, 1859, I wrote several letters to Miguil Tijerina, esq., in Matamoras, requesting him to let me know whether Cortinas was really going to start for Tampico, having then his men quartered in Matamoras, and he always assured me that he was on the eve of starting, Tijerina being the commander of the cavalry.

On or about the 14th of September, 1859, I saw Tijerina in person, and he again assured me that he was going to start with Cortinas the day after the celebration of the 16th of September.

On or about the 24th of September, I again spoke to Tijerina, and complained a great deal to him about the loss of so many beeves which Cortinas was robbing to kill for his men every day, and that I for one would not believe that Cortinas ever would leave the river, and he again assured me that he was going to start him off, although not to Tampico, but to Camargo. I further know that he had crossed the river with about thirty men, with the rumor that he was leaving for Camargo, and did receive twenty horses to mount his men, and not receiving any order to march, he recrossed the river and attacked our town on the 28th of the same month.

On or about the 14th of October he crossed over into Mexico with his whole force, and encamped there at the Rancho *Sabinito*, only nine miles above Matamoras, and he and his men were greeted everywhere in and out of Matamoras, and never were prosecuted by the Mexican authority. I now know he has a camp within thirty miles above Matamoras, on that side of the river, and that a good many of his officers and men are daily seen in Matamoras, and that they are greeted instead of prosecuted. I further know that the authorities of Matamoras did arrest three men belonging to Cortinas, to wit: Justo M. Trevino, Maryelo J. Carra, and Encarnation Carrillo, but not on account of being implicated with Cortinas, but on account of thefts committed on that side of the river.

ADOLPHUS GLARUKE.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, the undersigned justice of the peace, this January 17, 1860.

WILLIAM D. THOMAS,

Justice of the Peace, Cameron county, Texas, Precinct No. 7.

80 i.

4.

Statement of O. H. Carolan.

THE STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Cameron.*

My name is O. H. Carolan ; I reside in the city of Brownsville, Texas ; I left Brownsville last Saturday with the intention of going to Rio Grande City to settle some business with the rangers ; on the day I left this place, about 5 or 6 o'clock p. m., I reached a Mexican rancho on the Mexican side of the river, which is about thirty miles from Brownsville ; three men were in company with me ; Justo Trevino

and his brother, José Trevino, and an American ; when I reached the rancho I ascertained from the Mexicans at the rancho that Cortinas was camped about a league from there, and they advised me not to go any further, as they thought we would run a risk of our lives ; I stayed at this rancho all Saturday night and Sunday ; on Sunday I sent José Trevino to get some information ; he returned late in the afternoon, Sunday, and reported that Cortinas was up there with about one hundred and fifty men, and was receiving reinforcements ; and I ascertained that it was not safe to travel on the other side of the river, as all the ranchos above that place up to Reynosa were in arms against the Americans ; Cortinas was at the rancho called La Balsa ; on Sunday night late I saw Cortinas's camp ; from common report I ascertained that he had then about one hundred and fifty men ; I was told this by Cheno Cabazas, a man at whose rancho Cortinas had been the night previous ; on Monday morning, I ascertained that he had crossed to this side of the river about forty men ; and that on the night of that day he would cross over the balance of his force ; I knew several persons on the Mexican side of the river, at the rancho, who were pointed out to me as Cortinas's men ; that Monday evening I returned to Brownsville ; I am satisfied from what I saw, and from all the circumstances and information obtained, that in all those ranchos above where I stopped, up to Reynosa, on the Mexican side of the river, Cortinas's men harbored with full knowledge of the owners of the ranchos, or those who stay there ; I am satisfied that the authorities of Matamoras are cognizant of the fact of Cortinas being up there, and have full knowledge of his whereabouts ; I am likewise satisfied that Cortinas's men come and go out of Matmaoras whenever they please, and with full knowledge of the authorities of the town, and even at this time there are some of his men that walk the streets of Matamoras publicly ; I know of my own knowledge that shortly after the first attack of Cortinas upon Brownsville, Cortinas was publicly serenaded in Matamoras, and, from all the circumstances, I am well satisfied that the Mexican authorities and generally all the Mexicans give aid and assistance, if not openly, privately, to Cortinas and sympathize with him ; on the night previous to the first attack upon Brownsville there was a ball at Matamoras ; on the night of the fight with Cortinas, when the Mexicans from Matamoras fought with him, it was notoriously known here that ammunition and provisions were sent to Cortinas from Matamoras ; I believe this was somewhere about the 13th or 14th of October last, and the day after the fight I heard Mexicans in Matamoras conversing about the fight and telling how the Americans run ; at that time I was clerking at the French consuls in Matamoras ; I understand the Spanish language tolerably well ; I know that Mexicans on the other side are authorised to constitute themselves into a police force to prevent Americans to cross after Cortinas.

O. H. CAROLAN.

BROWNSVILLE, *January 13, 1860.*

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this January 13, 1860.

WM. D. THOMAS,
Justice of the Peace, Cameron County, Texas.

$$\frac{80 i.}{5.}$$

BROWNSVILLE, *Texas*, January 14, 1860.

GENTLEMEN: Agreeable to your verbal request, I have the honor to present to you the following brief statement of facts which led to the late disaster on this frontier.

Sometime last spring a number of Mexicans, say from fifteen to twenty, of reputed bad character, were driven away from the section of country bordering on the Nueces river, by a vigilance committee formed in some of the counties thereabouts. These Mexicans, when ordered to leave that section, came hitherward and camped at a place or rancho called "San José," occupied by one Cortinas, situate about half way between the Rio Grande and the arroyo Colorado; at which place or rancho, they recruited their numbers from the bad characters which have infested this valley since the Mexican war. Juan Nepomuceno Cortinas was at the same time at the rancho of Dona Etefina, (his mother,) about ten miles above this place, on the Rio Grande, where he also had a great many bad characters around him; for what purpose can only be accounted for by his subsequent course of conduct.

As early as last spring many trains of ox carts came down from Roma, Rio Grande City, and Edinburg, laden with wool, hides, and other produce and merchandise. No steamboats were running up the river at that time on account of low water, and it is a notorious fact that most of these trains of carts were robbed of oxen and saddle-horses in that neighborhood, and in some instances the stolen property was trailed into the very rancho of Cortinas's mother, where the parties were visited by armed Mexicans. Such was the state of affairs up to the time I left here for New York, in the latter part of June. When I returned home, about the first of December last, I found a letter purporting to be from J. N. Cortinas, addressed to me, in which he informs me he will batter down the city of Brownsville unless the citizens thereof deliver to him (Cortinas) two certain enemies of his who were then protected here. I also found this city in a state of seige, and the citizens forced to military service in protecting the city, to the injury of their usual avocations and business. Juan Nepomuceno Cortinas, the leader and principal actor in all these difficulties, has never owned any land in Texas, nor has any of his comrades or members of his *band*; nor is any citizen of Mexican origin, who is a land owner in Cameron county, an aider or abettor of Cortinas. He (Cortinas) has been, beyond dispute, supplied with arms, ammunition, and provisions, from the city of Matamoras in Mexico. They have always considered themselves belonging to Matamoras, and have always hailed from there when abroad. The records of Cameron county do not show that they or any of them have ever lost, or even had a law suit for land in Texas. They are men of reputed bad character and never have been identified with any lawful or respectable occupation or business. Cortinas himself, if he owned any stock, has kept it in Mexico, where he properly belongs. I have now in my

possession receipts of men recognizing Cortinas as their leader for horses, beeves, arms, and corn, forcibly taken by orders of Juan Nepomucino Cortinas, from my rancho called the Santa Rosa, where they made three visits. The last visit they took away two of my men with them, and drove off the balance. My loss is considerable, but I have not yet made up a statement of how much it amounts to. I know of many other stock ranchos in Cameron county upon which they have levied forced contributions or made forced loans, the particulars of which parties interested can give more fully than I can. I know the principal men who have been with Cortinas in these outrages, and none of them are tax-payers or land-owners in Cameron county, and many of them have long been outlaws of both sides of the Rio Grande.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHARLES STILLMAN.

Messrs. TAYLOR and NAVARRO,

Commissioners of the State of Texas, &c.

80 i.

6

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Cameron:*

This is to certify that I, the undersigned, Robert Shears, a native of the United States, and city marshal for the city of Brownsville, State and county aforesaid, on the 13th day of July, A. D. 1859, was handed by Mr. Stephen Powers, mayor of said city, a warrant to arrest a disorderly Mexican; and as I was in the act of executing the same, I was shot at from the rear by one "Juan Nepomucino Cortinas," to me formerly unknown; and immediately again, as I proceeded to take my prisoner to the court-house, I was fired at by the said Cortinas with a six-shooter in his hand, which second shot took effect in my left shoulder, the ball coming out in the back, when Cortinas took my prisoner, set him up on behind his horse, and rode off unpursued.

From the date of this catastrophe up to the 28th day of September, 1859, (the day of entrance of Cortinas and his party into this city,) he sent me from the city of Matamoras several messages, offering money to reconcile and compromise the shooting affair and the damages and pains I sustained; he informed me at the same time that he was in command of a company of soldiers in Matamoras, of which fact I am fully aware. Again, on the morning of the 28th day of September, when he entered the city, he came to my house, broke open my doors, and searched for me, but fortunately I had absented myself a few moments previous.

I never knew him previous to the 13th day of July, nor had ever any animosity against the man.

I was told by his messengers that he said that he held a commission from the government of Mexico to raise a company of soldiers.

In testimony whereof, I herewith annex my scrawl and signature on this 14th day of January, A. D. 1860.

ROBERT SHEARS, [L. s.]

City Marshal, City of Brownsville, by A. L.

BROWNSVILLE, *January 14, 1860.*

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Cameron:*

Before me, on this 14th day of January, A. D. 1860, personally came Robert Shears, and made oath to the above statement, and acknowledged the same to be just and true.

JOSEPH R. PALMER,

Justice of the Peace for Cameron County, State of Texas.

80 i.

7

Statement of Thaddeus Rhodes.

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Cameron:*

My name is Thaddeus Rhodes ; I am deputy collector and inspector of customs for the port of Rancho of Rosario, in the county of Hidalgo, Texas. I know of my own knowledge that there has been a great amount of property destroyed by Cortinas and his men on this side of the river. I am well acquainted with the country up to Rio Grande City. I believe that the Mexican authorities in Matamoras, and all the Mexicans generally on the Mexican side of the river Rio Grande, countenance and encourage Cortinas in his movements. My house was robbed by a party of Cortinas's men, in number about thirty-five, in the month of October last. When this happened myself and family had left the house, and none were there but my servants. Last month, on their way to Rio Grande City, Cortinas's men burnt down my rancho and stole all my stock. I am now living in Brownsville with my family. My stock, stolen by Cortinas's men, consisted of fourteen head of horses, seventeen head of cattle, and about ninety head of goats. I do not know what amount of stock I may have had stolen since.

THADDEUS RHODES.

BROWNSVILLE, *January 13, 1860.*

80 i.

8

Statement of J. Turner, Esq.

STAE OF TEXAS, *County of Cameron:*

I have been living on the Rio Grande since 1846 ; I know that Cortinas's men have been stealing cattle and crossing them over to the

Mexican side of the river at different points for the last month, and are doing it now. I know that Cortinas has organized his forces on the Mexican side of the river in the jurisdiction of Reynosa; and also that Cortinas and his men cross backwards and forwards to the Mexican side of the river whenever they please. I believe that the Mexican officials in Matamoras are cognizant of the facts that Cortinas and his men are often on the Mexican side of the river; and I believe that all the Mexicans, or the greater number of them, sympathize with Cortinas.

J. TURNER.

BROWNSVILLE, *January 24, 1860.*

81. *Governor Houston to Mr. Floyd.*

[Telegram.]

NEW ORLEANS, *February 20, 1860.*

SIR: The commissioners sent by me to the Rio Grande have reported that the territory of Texas has been invaded. The banditti recruit their forces and gain supplies in the face of the authorities of Matamoras, and they are unable to restrain them. The steamer *Ranchero* was fired into from the Mexican side of the river on the third (3d) instant. The Texans thereupon crossed the river with sixty men, and, after an engagement with some two hundred banditti, repulsed them, with a loss of twenty-five or thirty of the enemy. The immediate interposition of the federal arm is besought. I have used all necessary caution and prudence, and may now act upon the facts before me. Unless prompt measures are adopted by the federal government, circumstances may impel a course on the part of Texas which she desires to avoid. Texas cannot be invaded with impunity. If thrown upon her own resources, she will not only resist, but adopt measures to prevent a recurrence of the outrage.

A reply is respectfully asked, stating the decision of the department.

I would request that that this despatch be submitted to his excellency President Buchanan.

The report of the commissioners will be sent by mail.

I have the honor to be,

SAM HOUSTON.

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD.

82. *The Adjutant General to the Commander of Fort Bliss.*

WAR DEPARTMENT, *February 21, 1860.*

SIR: Representations have been made to the War Department to the effect that large bands of armed banditti are marauding upon the Mexican side of the Rio Grande, and that the property and lives of American citizens are in imminent danger of destruction by them.

If this be the case, you are authorized by the Secretary of War to march such a force to the relief of the American citizens in the vicinity of your post as will give them protection against the banditti, if, in your judgment, such protection is necessary, and the same may be asked for by the Mexican authorities.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. D. TOWNSEND,

Assistant Adjutant General.

The COMMANDING OFFICER,

Fort Bliss, Texas.

83. *Major Thomas to Colonel Seawell.*

HEADQUARTERS, CAMP COOPER, TEXAS,

February 22, 1860.

SIR: I have to report, for the information of the department commander, that on the night of the 17th instant the sentinel on post over the public mules at this post permitted, by criminal neglect of his duty, some person or persons to pull up a number of the pickets on one side of the yard, cut the bell from the neck of the bell-mule, and drive off the whole herd, and gave no alarm for fifteen or twenty minutes afterwards. Immediately after daylight I sent a party in pursuit, and twenty-one mules and two condemned horses, which had strayed from the herd, were recovered. At 9 a. m. another party, under Lieutenant Lowe, adjutant 2d cavalry, was sent, with instructions to pursue them as far as possible. I enclose Lieutenant Lowe's report herewith, and will also state, in confirmation of the opinion expressed in the last paragraph, that the depredations this winter all appear to have been committed upon a systematic plan, and with such an evident understanding among the parties committing them that I am inclined to think there is some foundation for the opinion referred to by Lieutenant Lowe. The night after the mules were stolen from the post all the animals at the agency, except those locked up in the stable, were carried off. This party was pursued by four Mexicans living with Colonel Leper on mules which I loaned them for the occasion. On the Little Wichita, some distance above the crossing of the Radzeminski road, they came upon a couple of Indians, who had with them six horses, four of which were taken by the Mexicans, the Indians making their escape on the other two. Mr. B. Harden, a citizen from one of the lower counties, had left a private horse in charge of the quartermaster until his return with the scout under Lieutenant Cunningham, which scout he had accompanied to show the trail made by the party from Erath and Palo Pinto counties. This horse was carried off by the persons who broke into the mule-yard. I also enclose Lieutenant Cunningham's report.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEORGE H. THOMAS,

Major 2d Cavalry, Commanding Post.

The ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL,

Headq'r's Dep't of Texas, San Antonio, Texas.

83 a.

CAMP COOPER, TEXAS,
February 21, 1860.

SIR: I have the honor to report that in obedience to your instructions I left this camp on the morning of the 18th instant, with a party consisting of one non-commissioned officer and nine privates of the regimental band, and six privates of company "D," to pursue a party of depredators who had stolen some government animals on the night of the 17th.

After a search of two hours I struck the trail, about 12 o'clock, and followed it at a brisk trot until dark. The next morning I again started at a rapid gait, but after going some twelve miles (I had then followed it nearly sixty miles) buffalo became so numerous that the trail was completely obliterated, and I found it impossible to go further with any possibility of overtaking them. The trail in its general direction bore N.NE.

I found two mules that had been killed, and one alive, which I brought back. Neither of the three had any of the marks or brands usually found upon animals belonging to Comanches; and from this fact I am led to believe that the thieves must belong to some other tribe. I would take occasion to state, from reports which seem to be well authenticated, that the prevailing impression in this part of the country is that most of the animals taken from Texas are driven to Bent's Fort for sale.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

W. W. LOWE,
First Lieutenant and Adjutant 2d Cavalry.

Major G. H. THOMAS,
2d Cavalry, Commanding Post.

84. *The Adjutant General to Colonel Lee.*

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, February 24, 1860.

SIR: Information having reached the War Department of the continued depredations of Cortinas and his followers on American soil, the Secretary of War directs that you make use of your best exertions to put a period to the predatory operations of that band of outlaws, and that you employ for this purpose, if required, all the troops under your command that can possibly be spared for such service.

The most vigorous measures for the capture of Cortinas and his band will be resorted to, and, if necessary, the Secretary of War directs that they be pursued beyond the limits of the United States.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. COOPER,
Adjutant General.

Brevet Colonel R. E. LEE, U. S. A.,
*Commanding Department of Texas,
San Antonio, Texas.*

85. *Mr. Floyd to Mr. Houston.*

[Telegram.]

WAR DEPARTMENT, *February 28, 1860.*

SIR: Your despatch was received and promptly submitted to the President, when action was immediately had to carry out your wishes.

Such measures as the means and the power of this department could command have been taken for the defence of the Texan frontier on the Mexican border. An officer of great discretion and ability has been despatched to take command of the department of Texas, and has, no doubt, arrived at the scene of action before this date.

Strong additional reinforcements will be sent into Texas as soon as the season of the year will render a movement of troops possible.

JOHN B. FLOYD,
Secretary of War.

Hon. SAMUEL HOUSTON,
Governor of Texas.

86. *The Adjutant General to Colonel Lee.*

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, March 2, 1860.

COLONEL: Referring to the letter I had the honor to address to you the 24th ultimo, in relation to the outlaw Cortinas, I am now instructed by the Secretary of War to say that you will notify the Mexican authorities on the Rio Grande frontier that they must break up and disperse the bands of banditti concerned in the outrages which have been committed for some time past in that quarter upon the persons and property of American citizens; and further, that they will be held by you responsible for the faithful performance of this plain duty on their part.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. COOPER,
Adjutant General.

Brevet Colonel R. E. LEE, *U. S. Army,*
Commanding Department of Texas, San Antonio, Texas.

87. *The Adjutant General to Colonel Lee.*

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, March 3, 1860.

COLONEL: In further reference to the subject concerning which the Adjutant General had the honor to address you on the 2d instant, I am instructed by the Secretary of War to say, that should the Mexi-

can authorities on the Rio Grande frontier refuse or fail on your requisition, or that of the officer you may delegate, to break up and disperse any band of banditti on the Mexican side of the river, having for their object depredations on our side, you will cause this to be done by the force under your command.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. D. TOWNSEND,

Assistant Adjutant General.

Brevet Colonel R. E. LEE, *U. S. Army,*

Commanding Department of Texas, San Antonio, Texas.

88.—Colonel Lee to General Scott.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,

San Antonio, March 6, 1860.

COLONEL: Reports from the posts in the northern part of Texas give frequent information of depredations upon the settlements. These have become more numerous and daring since the necessity has arisen for withdrawing a portion of the force on that line to place it on the Rio Grande.

During the last months outrages have occurred in the immediate neighborhood of many of the posts, several of which are occupied by cavalry. In some instances Indians have been overtaken and punished, in others they have escaped, from the nature of the ground, the obliteration of the trail, or other causes beyond the control of the pursuing party.

The horses of the 2d cavalry have become so reduced by constant service, exposure, and scarcity of food and grass, that they fail in the pursuit and sometimes perish. The marauders are generally in small parties, and sometimes on foot.

On the night of the 3d of February the animals of residents in the immediate vicinity of Camp Colorado were driven off.

On the night of the 17th of February the mule-yard at Camp Cooper, over which a sentinel was posted, was broken in and the whole herd driven off. Twenty-three of the animals were recovered by a party sent at daylight in pursuit, but the remainder, forty mules and three horses, were not overtaken. The force at the post was so much reduced by scouts then out that the detachment sent under Lieutenant Lowe, adjutant of the regiment, was principally composed of the band.

The following night all the animals from the Indian agency, two or three miles distant from Camp Cooper, were stolen; and Major Thomas, as you will perceive in his report, which is herewith forwarded, is under the impression that the thieves were not Comanches. Bent's Fort, where it is conjectured the stolen animals have been sold, is above Fort Atkinson, on the Arkansas.

On the same evening on which the animals from the Indian agency were stolen, 18th of February, a citizen residing within two miles of

Fort Mason was shot, within one hundred yards of his house, by three Indians on foot. The commanding officer did not hear of the attack till next morning, when he endeavored, for three days, to discover the trail of the assassins, but without effect.

I have noticed these cases as the most recent, and to show the audacity of the marauders.

There is but one company at Camp Cooper, which is too small a force, in my opinion, for the position. But, until some of the companies can be withdrawn from the Rio Grande, I see not prospect of reinforcing it, unless the commanding general of the army should think that the two companies of the 1st cavalry at Fort Washita could be used for that purpose.

There are two companies of the 1st cavalry and one of infantry at Fort Arbuckle, and I have no means of judging of the importance of the troops at Fort Washita, and am therefore unwilling to remove them. On the Rio Grande there are three companies 2d cavalry, three companies 8th infantry, and three companies 1st artillery; should the quiet of that region be again disturbed, it will be necessary, in my opinion, to send there another company of cavalry.

The troops in the department are posted over a long line of frontier, and yet, from the paucity of their numbers, are unable to protect the settlements.

The best method of preventing the inroads of the Indians is to send a strong body of troops into their country, which would have the effect of recalling them to their women and children; but there is not at this time within the department a force available for the purpose.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. E. LEE,

Brevet Colonel, Commanding Department.

Colonel L. THOMAS,

*Adjutant General, Headquarters of the Army,
City of New York, N. Y.*

[Endorsement.]

MARCH 19, 1860.

An officer, Colonel Brown, has just arrived here from Fort Brown, who brings later news from the lower Rio Grande than Colonel Lee possessed at the date of his report. Major Heintzelman reported to Colonel Lee, early in this month, that the disturbances in that quarter had ceased, and that Cortinas had fled to the interior of Mexico. Colonel Brown concurs in these impressions, as did all the officers under Major Heintzelman. The latter, therefore, needs no reinforcement.

The recent disturbances on our side of the lower Rio Grande were commenced by Texans, and carried on (vainly) by and between them. Cortinas himself and most of his brigands are natives of Texas. A brother horse-thief burned a house belonging to the mother of Cortinas, living in Texas, consequent on a quarrel about dividing the stolen property. Cortinas retaliated, and hence our side of the river,

for many miles, has been devastated. But few, if any, Mexicans from the opposite side took part in the disturbances. There was no attack from the Mexican side upon our boat, the *Ranchero*, loaded with provisions. Her colors were not rent by bullets, &c.

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of War.

WINFIELD SCOTT.

89. *Major Heintzelman to the Adjutant General.*

HEADQUARTERS BROWNSVILLE EXPEDITION,
Fort Brown, Texas, March 7, 1860.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of my letter to the department headquarters, dated 29th February.

Since then I have heard of but one small party on this side of the river. They were engaged in removing the body of a man shot by the rangers the evening before, and were under the protection of an armed party "on the south bank of the river."

I have to-day heard that Cortinas is at the rancho of "Reystano," a few leagues above, collecting men to cross over; also that he slept last night in Matamoras. It is now said that the report of his going to Monterey was only circulated to throw us off our guard. I have not had time to verify these reports.

The telegraphic reports in the newspapers, of orders to cross after Cortinas, and the arrival to-day of company "G," 2d cavalry, one officer and sixty-three men, have created much alarm in Matamoras, and may induce the authorities to act more efficiently. They know that we can starve them out in a fortnight. There is not a grain of corn in this part of the country. All the corn and flour they use goes from this side.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
S. P. HEINTZELMAN,

Major 1st Infantry, commanding Brownsville Expedition.

Colonel S. COOPER,

Adjutant General U. S. A., Washington, D. C.

HEADQUARTERS BROWNSVILLE EXPEDITION,
Fort Brown, Texas, February 29, 1860.

SIR: I have the honor to report that Cortinas and his followers have dispersed, and I do not believe that another effort will be made by him to collect a force.

After the affair of the 4th of February, at the Bolsa, he retired to La Mesa, six miles back from the river, and there remained with a small force until within a few days, when he left with five men and is reported to be at Comargo or further back in the interior. Imme-

diately after he left, a body of troops from Matamoras were seen in the vicinity of his abandoned camp. As his mother and brother are desirous to return to this side of the river and reoccupy their ranches, I am strengthened in the belief that Cortinas has left permanently.

The cavalry and rangers are actively employed in guarding the river, but it will be impossible to entirely prevent the incursions of robbers so long as they have the protection of the Mexican side of the river. By occupying this post with two companies and one each at Ringgold barracks and Fort McIntosh, and with two companies of cavalry in the field, I think quiet can be maintained on the lower Rio Grande.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. P. HEINTZELMAN,

Major 1st Infantry, com'g Brownsville expedition.

Captain JOHN WITHERS,

Assistant Adjutant General U. S. Army, San Antonio, Texas.

P. S.—Captains Lee's and Jordan's companies, eighth infantry, arrived here on the 27th. The latter will return to Ringgold barracks in a few days, and the former await here further instructions. Their march and arrival here have had a salutary effect.

S. P. H.

90. *Governor Houston to Mr. Floyd.*

[By telegraph.]

AUSTIN, *March 8, 1860.*

SIR: Judging from the tenor of despatches from your department to me, of the 28th ultimo, that the government has not at its command sufficient troops to afford the immediate protection to Texas desired, I herewith tender the services of five thousand (5,000) Texas volunteers. Texas is ready for the emergency and will act at a moment's warning. Texas needs, to repel invasions both from the Indians and Mexico, an immediate supply of arms.

In view of the atrocities committed on our people, I hope the department will send, without delay, by steam or railroad conveyance, to care of Messrs. Perkins & Co., New Orleans, Forbs & McKee, Port Lavacca, and S. M. Sweeney, Austin, Texas, two thousand (2,000) percussion rifles and appendages, one thousand (1,000) Sharp's breech-loading rifles and appendages, three thousand Colt's revolvers, with appendages, one thousand (1,000) cavalry accoutrements.

Texas has always been deficient in arms and has drawn but few. Danger is upon her now and she needs them at once.

Be pleased to reply by telegraph without delay.

SAMUEL HOUSTON.

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD.

[Extract.]

91. *General Orders No. 6.*HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
New York, March 12, 1860.

I. The following instructions have been received from the War Department:

1. The following dispositions of the troops will be carried into effect as soon as the season will permit.

* * * * *

9 The 3d infantry will proceed to Texas; five companies to be stationed at Ringgold barracks, and five at Fort Clark.

* * * * *

13. Fort Brown will be garrisoned by one company of artillery, to be relieved every year by a company from the Field Artillery Station, at which the other artillery companies will habitually be concentrated.

* * * * *

By command of Brevet Lieutenant General Scott.

H. L. SCOTT,
Lieutenant Colonel and A. D. C., Acting Assist. Adj. Gen.

92. *Colonel Brown to the Adjutant General.*

[By telegraph.]

NEW ORLEANS, *March 13, 1860.*

SIR: I left Brownsville on the eighth instant. All was quiet on the frontier. The disturbances were believed to be over, and Cortinas to have given up the contest, and to have retired into the interior of Mexico. Major Heintzelman has officially reported the war to be ended.

HARVEY BROWN.

Colonel S. COOPER.

93. *Governor Houston to Mr. Floyd.*EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
Austin, March 12, 1860.

SIR: Realizing that it is my duty to address your department, that it may be laid before his excellency the President, I thus devote myself to action for two purposes: First to vindicate myself from misapprehension, and next to obtain if possible protection for our frontier in-

habitants, whose suffering and losses I feel assured are not felt or known by the government.

In a New Orleans paper my eye met a telegraphic despatch of the 3d instant, from Washington, stating that the "President disapproves of the action taken by Governor Houston in calling out volunteers in Texas to defend the frontier." I can but feel assured that this remark, in view of the facts that have transpired since my induction into office, cannot be justified and calls for refutation, for the reason that I have ordered no troops on the Rio Grande, or destined for that frontier. So far from that being the case, four companies which were in service, on the Rio Grande when I came into office were mustered out of service and two companies were formed under the advice of the commissioners conferring with Major Heintzelman of the United States army. They are subject to his orders.

I was very reluctant to trouble the department, and resolved that I would not do so upon any frivolous pretext. Hence it was that I sent commissioners, that I might possess myself of the origin of the difficulties, and if I should find them of such grave character as to require my action, I would lay them before the government, that the President might direct corresponding action to be taken in relation thereto.

You will thus perceive the becoming caution and, at the same time, the scrupulous deference to the federal head of the government. Had I consulted the wishes of and impulses of our citizens, I would have called into the field the whole available force of Texas, and crossed the Rio Grande, and never recrossed it until we would have had "security in the future."

The troops sent to the Rio Grande did not, so far as I am apprised, contemplate crossing to Mexican soil, until the Ranchero was fired into from the Mexican side of the river and a man wounded, and certainly there was no authority given them so to do; though it does seem to me that I would have been justifiable in pursuing an outlaw and rebel wherever he might be found, or wherever he received aid, succor, and protection. Under the circumstances of the attack upon a vessel of the United States in the waters of Texas, I can but discover more in the conduct to commend than to censure. It may be that the Executive of the United States, regarding the rumors and paragraphs in the newspapers, may suppose that I entertain some covert design of invading Mexico, and for that reason a call for volunteers to protect Texas against Indian depredations has caused misapprehension of my actions.

'Tis true that since 1857 I have been written to from various parts of the United States, urging me to invade Mexico, with a view to the establishment of a protectorate, and assuring me that men, money, and arms would be placed at my command if I would engage in the enterprise. To these overtures I made no favorable response, though, as an individual, I might have co-operated with them, by placing myself beyond the jurisdiction of the United States. Nor was I without the assurance that a large portion of the Mexican population would receive me, and co-operate with me in the restoration of order in that country. Thus I have remained tranquil and silent, in the hope that the government of the United States would consummate a policy which

must and will be achieved by some one ; or the miserable inhabitants of that lovely region are to be destroyed by a conflict of robbers.

I trust I am one of the last men on earth that would avail myself of an official situation to accomplish any achievement of personal or political aggrandizement.

You, sir, may assure the President that I will continue or countenance no action with a view to complicate or embarrass the affairs of his administration ; nor will I intentionally plant thorns in his pathway of life. I never have, nor will I ever perform an official act that is not intended for my country's advancement and prosperity, aside from all selfishness.

Now, as to my calling out volunteers, you will be able to judge of the propriety of my calls when you have the facts which I present to the department before you. For the information of the department I have to state that within the last few months our Indian frontier, as well as some counties considered in the interior, have been exposed to ruthless depredations from the Indians, some of them within forty-four miles of our State capital. Accompanying this letter, I send the department a list of persons killed, as well as the localities in which the murders were perpetrated. In the last four months fifty-one persons were killed and many wounded in escaping from the savages. Horses to the number of eighteen hundred have been stolen, and within the last few days seventy horses were stolen from the dragoons at Camp Cooper.

When the orders which have been issued by the executive of Texas reach the department, they will at once show the necessity of his course as well as the propriety of "calling out volunteers in Texas to defend the frontier."

I cannot but urge most earnestly the calling out of a regiment of rangers by the federal government to protect the lives and property of our citizens.

The fact that regulars cannot protect their cavalry against Indian thefts and depredations is evidence that they are not the description of force that can give protection to our frontiers.

Moreover, I have not, until urged by an imperative sense of duty, as well as the destruction of human life, sought to induce the calling out of troops from the State as the only force that can protect our settlements against our Indian foe. They understand Indian habits and warfare, and can trail and reclaim the booty, and at the same time take vengeance on the enemy.

A treaty of peace with the wild Indians who depredate would, with a comparatively small sum, save millions to the government of the United States ; for until they are exterminated, or peace made with them, guards must be constantly kept at an immense expense to the government, and even then our settlements will be subject to surprise and massacre.

Were the Indians to enter our territory in large bodies we could meet and destroy them ; but they attack in small parties of from six to fifteen simultaneously for hundreds of miles along our frontiers. I do most earnestly hope that the guarantees which we have a right to look to may be extended and "the State protected against invasion."

Since I commenced this communication intelligence has reached me of other murders and thefts in Erath county, a mail rider killed and scalped within six miles of the county seat. Likewise a woman murdered and a woman and child carried into captivity.

I hope for a speedy reply, as our situation calls for prompt action. We need arms as well as rangers.

I have the honor to be your most obedient servant,

SAM HOUSTON.

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,

Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.

93 a.

List of persons killed and wounded by the Indians in the last four months

In Erath county.—Two women killed; two taken prisoners and violated; both escaped naked; one since dead; five persons killed.

In Bosque county.—Two ministers shot with arrows; one since dead.

In Comanche county.—Five persons killed; men, women, and children; two persons, (father and daughter,) not found; supposed to be dead.

In Burnet county.—Three persons killed; two men severely wounded.

In San Saba county.—One man killed.

In Jack county.—Nine persons killed; houses robbed and plundered.

In Bosque county.—Three men killed.

In Brown county.—Five persons killed; two taken prisoners.

In Coryell county.—One man killed.

In Bell county.—Three persons killed; two taken prisoners.

On Clear Fork—Two persons killed.

In Cook county.—One woman killed.

In Gillespie county.—Four persons killed.

In Young county.—One person killed.

On overland routes.—Two persons killed.

In Webb county.—Two persons killed; 51 persons killed, and probably as many more wounded and taken prisoners; 1,800 horses stolen, including seventy-four of the United States troops, at Camp Cooper.

The above is compiled from reliable documents on file in the department.

SAM HOUSTON.

93 b.

Orders—Minute detachments.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
Austin, March 9, 1860.

The chief justice of each county in danger from the Indians will organize a minute detachment in his county, composed of one lieutenant, two sergeants, two corporals, and ten privates, holding an election for the officers, and mustering them into the service of the State. The muster-rolls will be filled up in duplicate and sent forward to the executive department.

He will cause the lieutenant to give bond with two approved securities in the sum of \$500 for the safe delivery of the arms which shall come into his hands; he shall also require the lieutenant to make oath that he will faithfully perform the duties of quartermaster, and account for all supplies which shall come into his hands, either by purchase or otherwise, which, with the bond, shall be filed in the office of the clerk of the county court. The chief justice will also forward to the executive a certificate to the effect that the lieutenant has given bond and made oath as provided.

Upon a detachment of minute men being mustered into service by the chief justice of any county in danger, the lieutenant will receive of the chief justice blank provision accounts and monthly returns.

The lieutenant will act as quartermaster, and purchase such supplies as are absolutely necessary, and at market prices. He will make out duplicate accounts, and have the chief justice to certify on the same that the articles are necessary to sustain the men while on duty, and that the prices are just. This is necessary in order to have ample testimony to support the same when an appropriation is made.

The lieutenant, acting as quartermaster, will furnish the men with rations, and use strict economy in relation to the supplies.

The lieutenant will detail two men immediately for arms and ammunition to Austin, providing them with sacks to carry the same; but he is in no case authorized to employ other means of transportation.

The detachments will immediately take the field, and enter upon active scouts, affording protection to the inhabitants of their respective counties. When an Indian trail is found it must be diligently followed, and if the sign indicates a larger party of Indians than he is able to cope with, he will call not exceeding ten men to his aid. He will keep a true account of the day's service performed by these men, and on a return from the scout, dismiss them. Great care is to be taken that the settlements shall not be left exposed, while on scouts, without due notice to the citizens.

The lieutenant will maintain discipline among the men. He will establish a camp at some central point in the county, not nearer than five miles of any town, and will not permit more than two men to be absent at any time, except on a scout or detailed duty. His supplies will be kept stored at the county site, in the care of the chief

justice, and not more than two weeks' supply for the men taken to camp at any one time.

Immediately upon taking the field the lieutenant will notify the executive of the same, stating the names of the officers of the detachment and their post offices. He will make monthly returns to the executive, and in the same will be particular to furnish correct information as to the operations of the detachment.

Horses and other property taken from the Indians are to be returned to their owners without charge. Any member of a detachment charging or receiving anything in lieu of property so returned will be dismissed from service without an honorable discharge. The lieutenant will be well satisfied that the person claiming the horses is the real owner; and if not, may require testimony. He will report the disposition made of them in his monthly return.

The lieutenant will charge upon his first monthly return, to the men receiving the same, the arms delivered; and the same must be accounted for at the close of service, or they will be deducted from the pay when appropriation is made.

The following general orders have been issued. Particular attention is called to them. The spirit of them is to be carried out by all rangers in the field.

SAM HOUSTON,
Commander-in-chief.

General orders to all Texians commanding in the service:

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, *February 8, 1860.*

Commanding officers of all Texians in the military service will see that daily patrols pass and repass from post to post when any command is divided into detachments and stationed at different points along the line of operations. Horses lost, unless in action and killed by the enemy, are not to be paid for, nor will the loss of arms be paid for.

In the police and arrangements of encampments or stations the health and comfort of the troops will be secured, if possible. Guards will be regularly detailed and mounted; and besides constant vigilance and care, the moral tone of companies will be a subject particularly confided to the authority of commanding officers.

No horse-racing or gambling is to be permitted or practiced, nor are any intoxicating spirits or liquors of any kind to be brought within camp or camps, or used; nor will any person or persons be permitted to bring nearer than five miles any spirits of any kind, or to sell the same to any command or to a member or members composing it.

More than four men will not be permitted to be absent from any command at any one time except upon special detailed duty.

Monthly reports and returns of the state and condition of different commands will be made to the executive department at this place.

Any member guilty of intoxication or insubordination will be immediately dismissed, without honorable discharge.

These orders are required to be read to all commands upon parade within twenty-four hours after reception.

SAM HOUSTON,
Commander-in-chief of Texas.

94. *Colonel Lee to the Adjutant General.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, March 12, 1860.

COLONEL: I have received your letters of the 24th and 27th ultimo, relative to the depredations of Cortinas and the instructions thereupon of the Secretary of War.

I shall proceed at once to the Rio Grande and use every exertion to put an end to these incursions, if they still continue.

You will perceive by the report of Major Heintzelman, of the 29th ultimo, which has been forwarded to your office, that he considers the force of Cortinas to have dispersed, and that he will not make another effort to collect one.

I shall therefore take with me but one company of cavalry, as frequent reports of Indian incursions have recently been made on the northern frontier, and there are not a sufficient number of troops on that line, in my opinion, to prevent them.

I have drawn the cavalry company from Camp Verdé, (where there is a company of infantry stationed,) the nearest point, and directed its march towards Fort McIntosh, and will join it on its route.

I regret to state that the horses of the cavalry regiment are so worn down by constant service, exposure, the scarcity of grass, &c., that they fail, sometimes perish, on every expedition. Some of the commanders of companies report that their horses are reduced to almost "total insufficiency."

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. E. LEE,
Brevet Colonel, Commanding Department.

Colonel S. COOPER,
*Adjutant General United States Army,
Washington city, D. C.*

95. *Mr. Drinkard to Governor Houston.*

[Telegram.]

WAR DEPARTMENT, *March 14, 1860.*

SIR: Your despatch of the 8th instant has been received and submitted to the President.

He directs me to say that he declines your tender of volunteers, inasmuch as a despatch has this day been received by the Adjutant General of the army from Brevet Colonel Harvey Brown, 2d artillery, dated New Orleans, March 13, 1860, in which he says:

"I left Brownsville on the 8th instant. All was quiet on the frontier. The disturbances were believed to be over, and Cortinas to have given up the contest and retired into the interior of Mexico. Major Heintzelman has officially reported the war to be ended."

This information being so much later and more direct from the scene of the late difficulties than you could have received at Austin at the date of your despatch, leads the President to believe that you are mistaken or have been misinformed.

Besides, there are now in Texas, ready for active service, two thousand six hundred and fifty-one troops, which force will soon be increased by the addition of ten companies, comprising eight hundred and forty-two men, now under orders to proceed there from New Mexico. Of these last, five companies are to be stationed at Ringgold barracks and five at Fort Clark.

The quota of arms now due to the State of Texas under the law amounts to one hundred and sixty-nine muskets, which, in an emergency, may be doubled by anticipating the quota for the next year, and which will be promptly delivered upon your requisition. As the money value of the arms for the two quotas does not amount to five thousand dollars, you will readily perceive that it is entirely impracticable to meet the requisition for arms, appendages, and accoutrements made in your despatch, the cost of which, at the lowest estimate, is within a fraction of one hundred thousand dollars.

The President further directs me to say that, with a sincere desire in every practicable way to meet the wishes of the governor and people of Texas, he conceives he has already performed his whole duty in the premises, under the circumstances.

Very respectfully,

W. R. DRINKARD,
Acting Secretary of War.

His excellency SAM HOUSTON,
Governor of Texas, Austin, Texas.

96. *Colonel Brown to the Adjutant General.*

FORT BROWN, *March 26, 1860.*

COLONEL: Under the impression that information of the state of affairs on the Rio Grande would be desirable to the government, being immediately from there, having travelled over the whole country from Brownsville to Ringgold barracks along the river, the scene of hostilities, having been for two weeks an attentive observer and inquirer, and having frequently conversed with the commanding officer and other army officers and respectable citizens on the subject of the outbreak of Cortinas and the present state of affairs, I despatched from New Orleans, on my arrival there on the 13th, the result of my observations. This despatch having been considered of sufficient importance to found in it the reply of the Secretary of War to the requisition of Governor Houston, an importance I never dreamed of its attaining, I now feel constrained to give the facts on which the opinions expressed in that dispatch were founded, that the govern-

ment may be able to set on my opinions their due value. I had not then nor have I now a doubt of their substantial correctness.

1. I concur fully with Major Heintzelman and the officers of the posts of Fort Brown and Ringgold barracks; and the former distinctly stated to me that he had received reliable information that Cortinas had left the country, and that the war was over, and that he had so officially reported to department headquarters; and the latter one, I believe, with only one exception, of the opinion that the affair having been, from the commencement, greatly exaggerated, never approached the dignity of a war, but was, in its commencement and continuance, a mere raid, which, in all its parts, had been very greatly exaggerated, and was now finished unless renewed by aggressions on one part.

2. In travelling to and from, and while at Brownsville and Ringgold barracks, I heard, at different places, and from different individuals along the frontier, reports immediately from the Mexican side, which uniformly (with, I think, only one solitary exception) represented Cortinas to have retired into the interior of Mexico; some of them stating that he had taken his family and all his stock with him.

3. The citizens who had abandoned their plantations on the river, were many of them returning.

4. Persons, singly and without escort, and small parties travelled safely over the road. I met them frequently.

5. Cortinas's mother, who has a plantation a few miles from Brownsville, (the buildings and fences of which were destroyed by the Texan rangers,) and his brother, who had returned to the Mexican side, had petitioned the authorities of Brownsville for authority to return.

6. All the numerous reports of Cortinas being at Matamoras, or in its vicinity, were subsequently found to be false.

7. Perfect quiet and apparent security prevailed at Brownsville, Ringgold barracks, Edyburg, Rio Grande City, and all along the river between those places.

8. Communications between the two countries was constant and undisturbed, and immense quantities of goods were constantly being crossed from Brownsville and Matamoras.

These, with the incidental considerations, convince me of the correctness of that despatch, any subsequent contradicting report to the contrary notwithstanding; and I feel the most perfect assurance that, by the removal of the Texan volunteers (a great and reciprocal animosity subsisting between them and the Mexicans) from the frontier, by a judicious distribution of *regular* troops along the line, the present force there is amply sufficient to preserve peace and give protection to our citizens.

Before closing, it may be proper for me to say that newspaper reports, as also those of anonymous letter-writers, are not to be relied on, and should be received with the greatest caution; reports, the most false and exaggerated, being put in circulation by persons interested in fomenting trouble immediately before the sailing of the New Orleans steamer for the evident purpose of exercising an influence on public opinion in the States.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

HARVEY BROWN,

Brevet Colonel, U. S. A.

Col. S. COOPER, *Adjutant General, Washington city, D. C.*